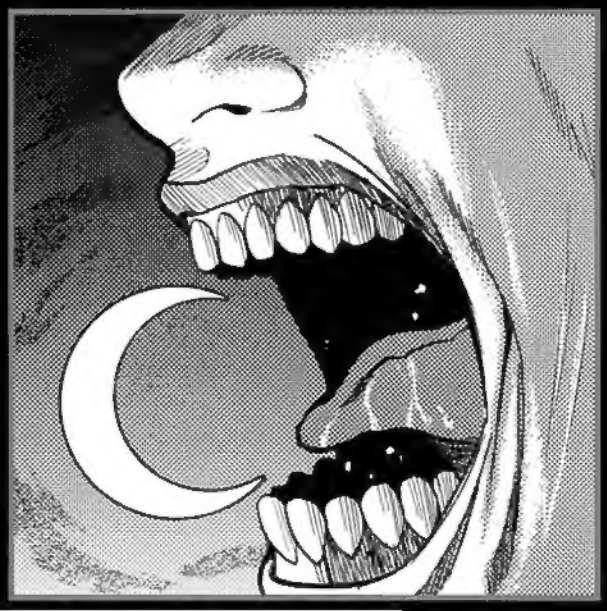
CORPSE PRINCE

YOSHIICHI AKAHITO

7

CORPSE PRINCESS



7

SAGA (NOUN)

A transmutation of a Shikabane's "regrets." Ordinarily, a Shikabane will naturally pass away after seven or eight years, but very rarely, Shikabane with strong regrets can transform those regrets into saga and stand against time itself. Shikabane possessing saga are inevitably more dangerous than those without.

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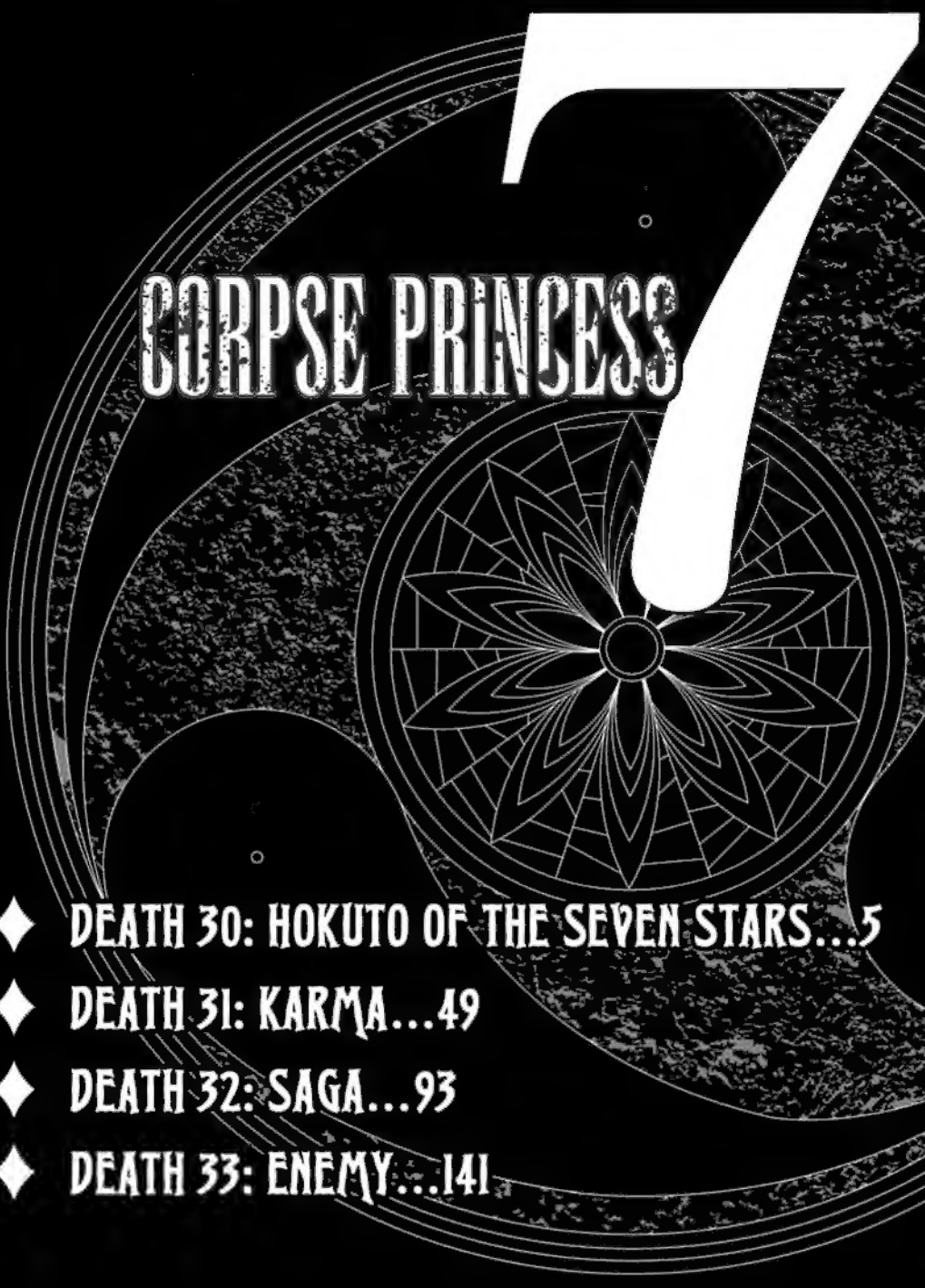

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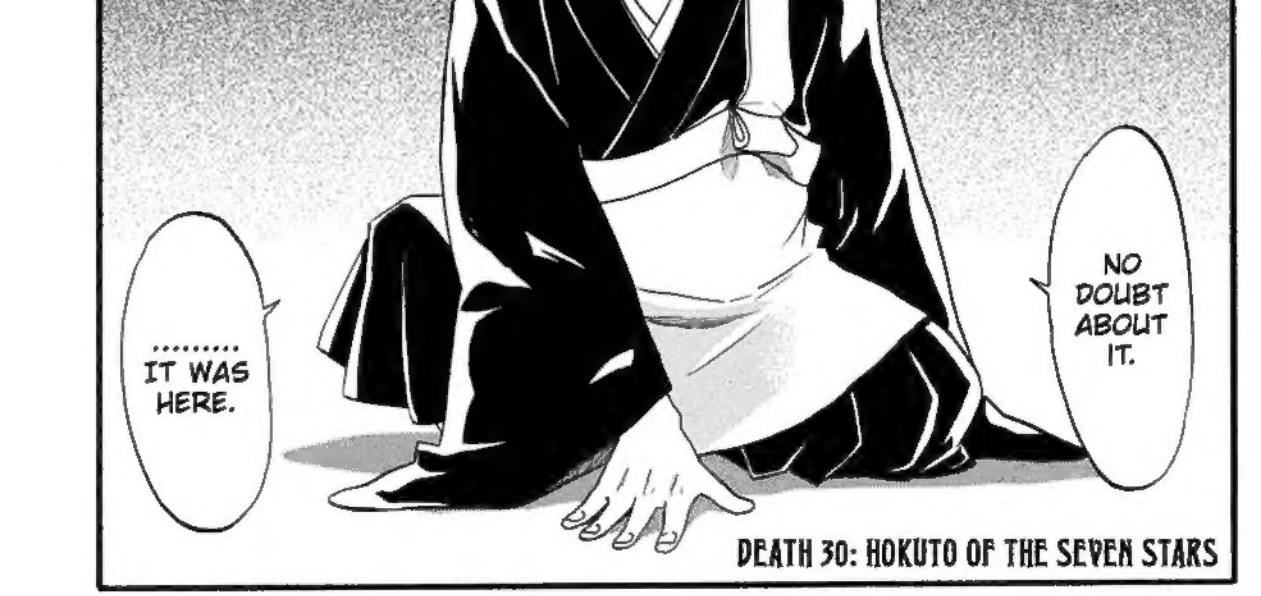
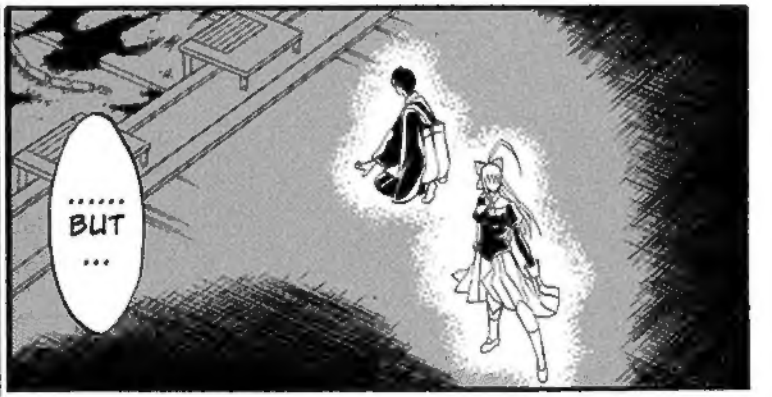
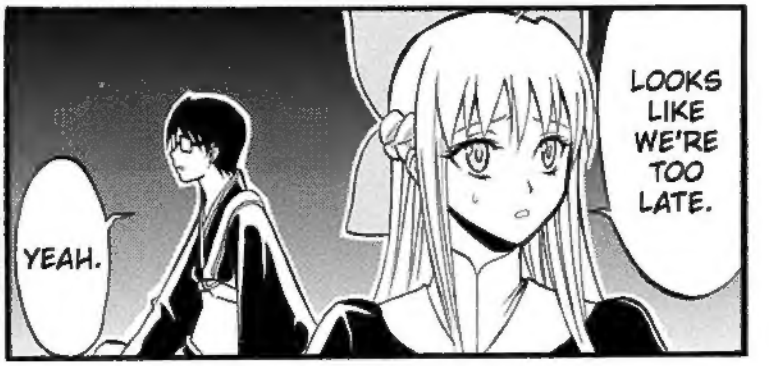
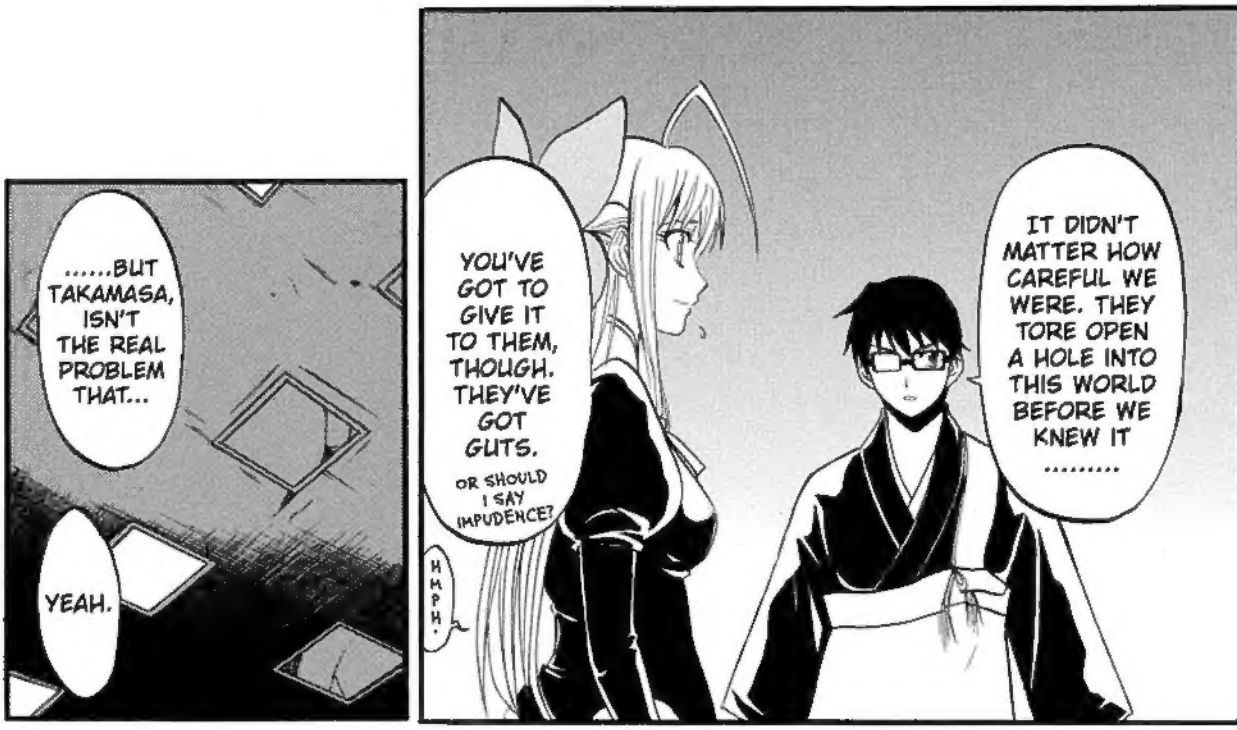
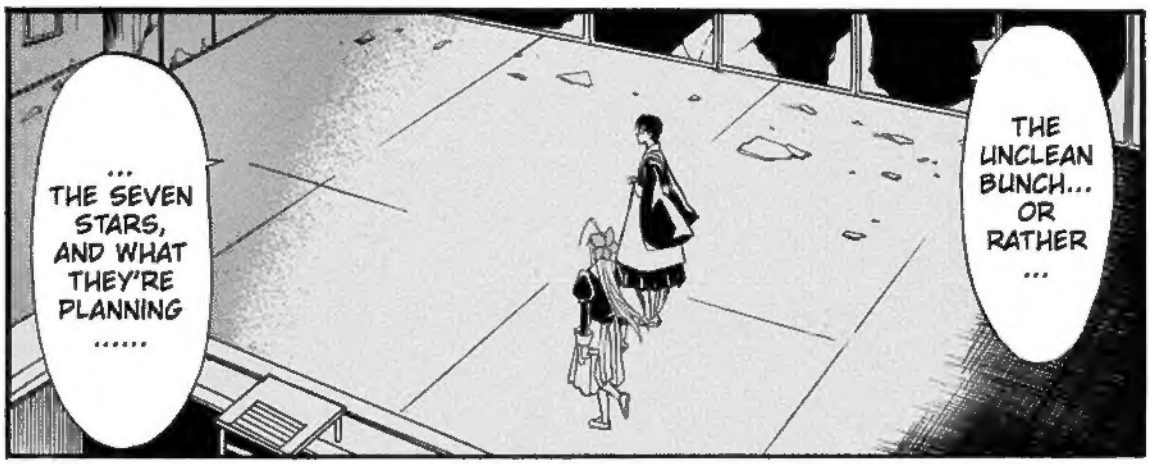


DEATH 30: HOKUTO OF THE SEVEN STARS





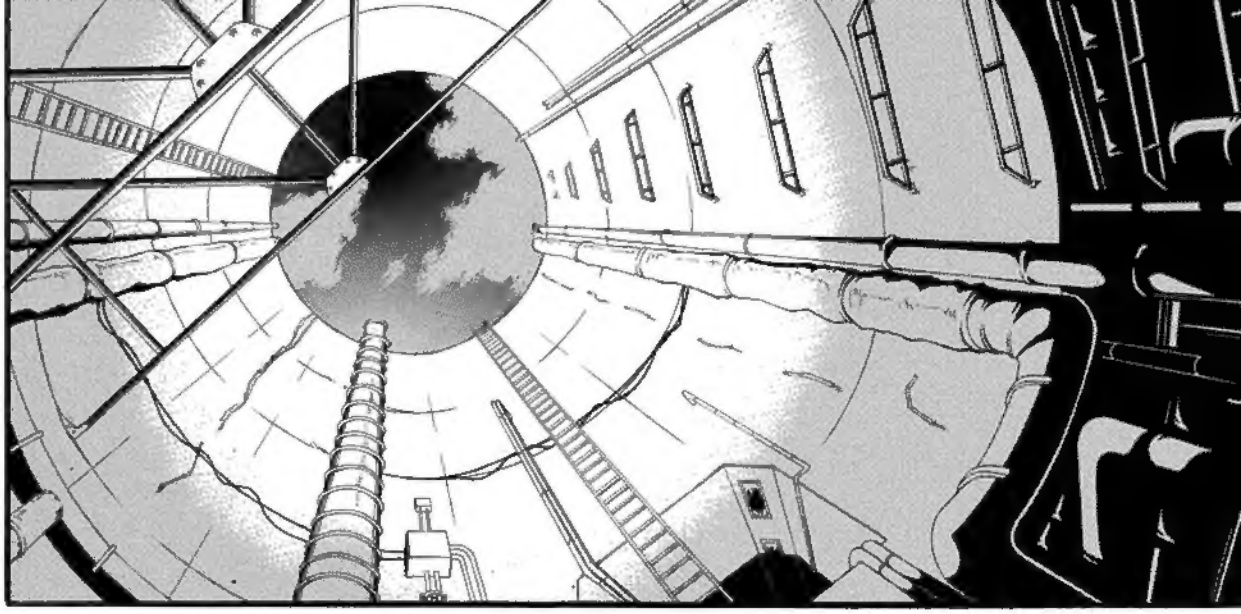

IT DIDN'T MATTER HOW CAREFUL WE WERE. THEY TORE OPEN A HOLE INTO THIS WORLD BEFORE WE KNEW IT .....
YOU'VE GOT TO GIVE IT TO THEM, THOUGH. THEY'VE GOT GUTS.
OR SHOULD I SAY IMPUDENCE?
HMPH.
.....BUT TAKAMASA, ISN'T THE REAL PROBLEM THAT...
YEAH.


THE UNCLEAN BUNCH... OR RATHER ...
... THE SEVEN STARS, AND WHAT THEY'RE PLANNING .....

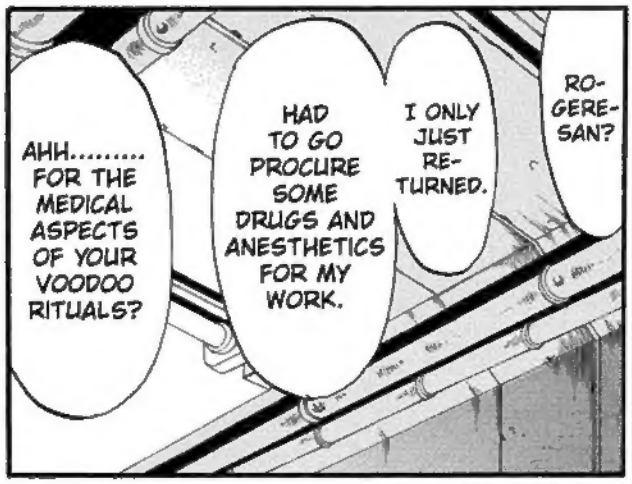
THE SEVEN STARS .....?
THEY MADE A BIG SHOWING AT A NEARBY SCHOOL.
I FEEL LIKE THEY'VE GOT TO BE INVOLVED WITH ALL THIS IN SOME WAY.
THE SWARM THAT APPEARS LIKE A MIST .....
... AND KILLS LIKE A PLAGUE .....

THIS IS ALL THAT REMAINS OF THE CORPSES THAT ONCE FILLED THIS POOL.
THERE WERE ABOUT 120 OF THEM .....
WHAT ON EARTH DID THEY USE THEM ALL FOR?

DEATH 30: HOKUTO OF THE SEVEN STARS



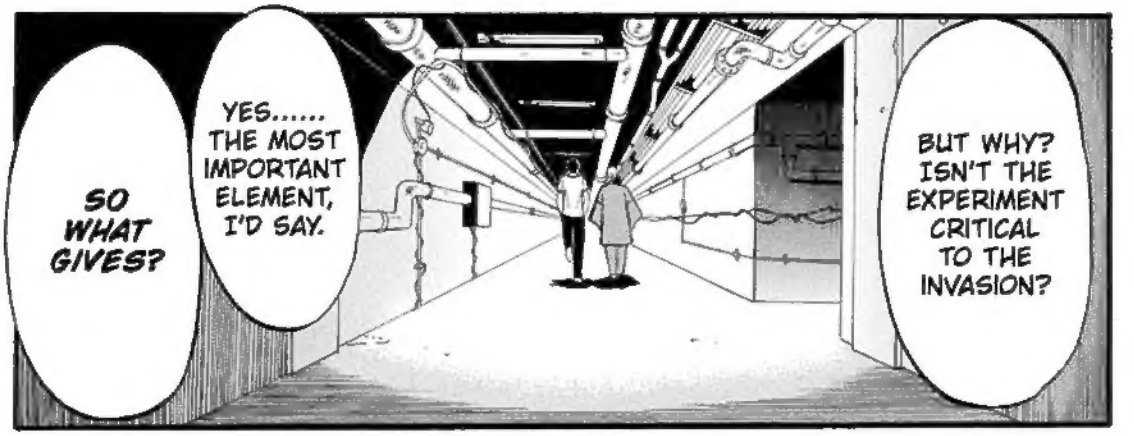
AKASHA.

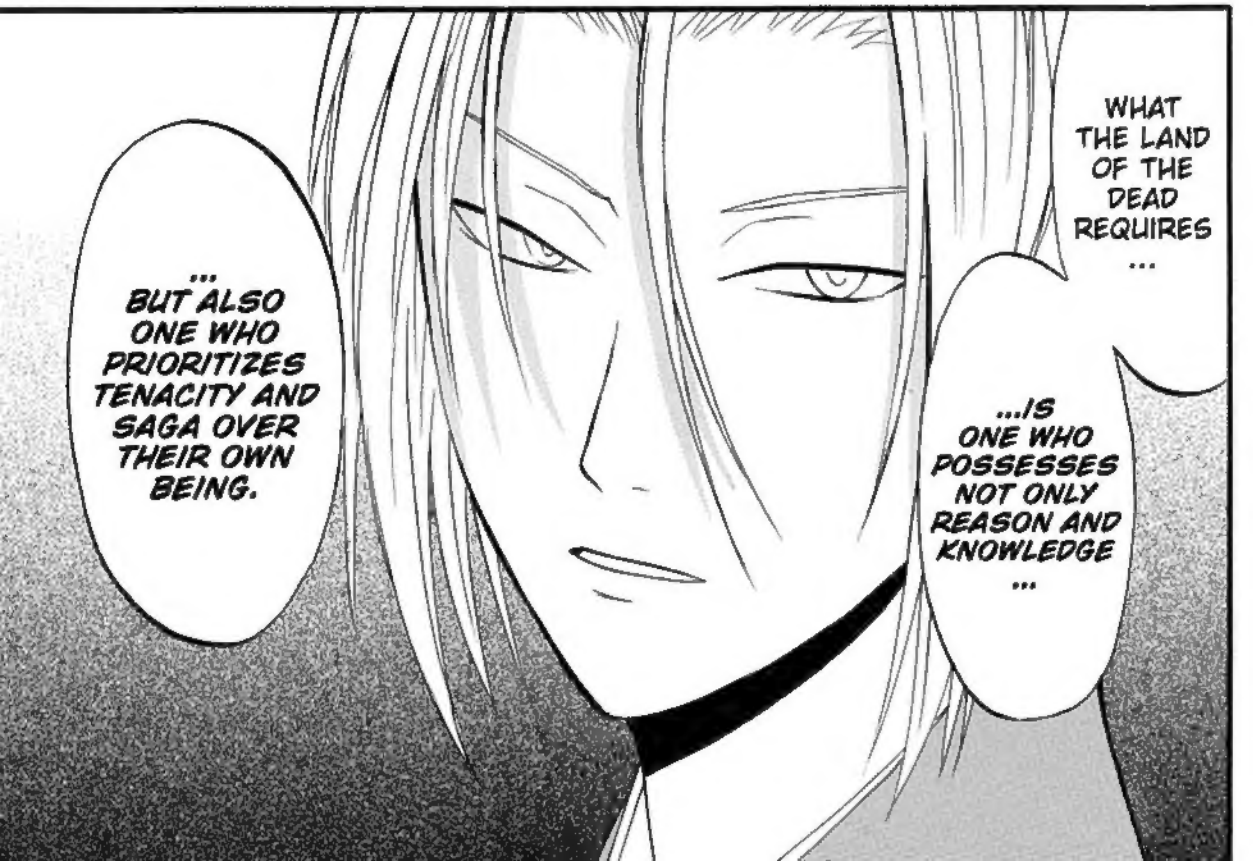

AHH..... FOR THE MEDICAL ASPECTS OF YOUR VOODOO RITUALS?
HAD TO GO PROCURE SOME DRUGS AND ANESTHETICS FOR MY WORK.
I ONLY JUST RE-TURNED.
RO-GERE-SAN?

WHERE'RE YOU HEADED?

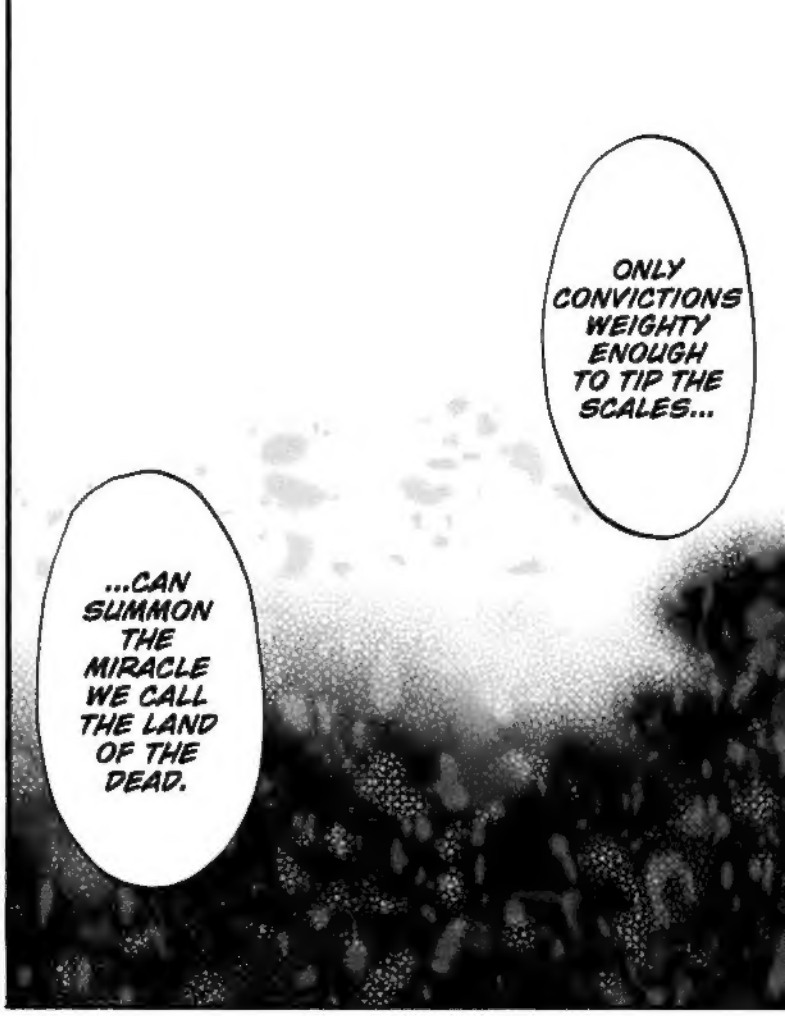
THE KING HAS AN EDICT FOR THEM.
I'VE SUMMONED THE FOUNDERS HERE.

THAT'S BEEN LEFT TO THE SEVEN STARS.
THE FOUNDERS ARE TO MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR THE INVASION.
?
NO.
AH.
CON-CERNING THE LAND OF THE DEAD EXPERI-MENT?


SO WHAT GIVES?
YES..... THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENT, I'D SAY.
BUT WHY? ISN'T THE EXPERIMENT CRITICAL TO THE INVASION?


WHAT THE LAND OF THE DEAD REQUIRES ...
...IS ONE WHO POSSESSES NOT ONLY REASON AND KNOWLEDGE ...
...BUT ALSO ONE WHO PRIORITIZES TENACITY AND SAGA OVER THEIR OWN BEING.

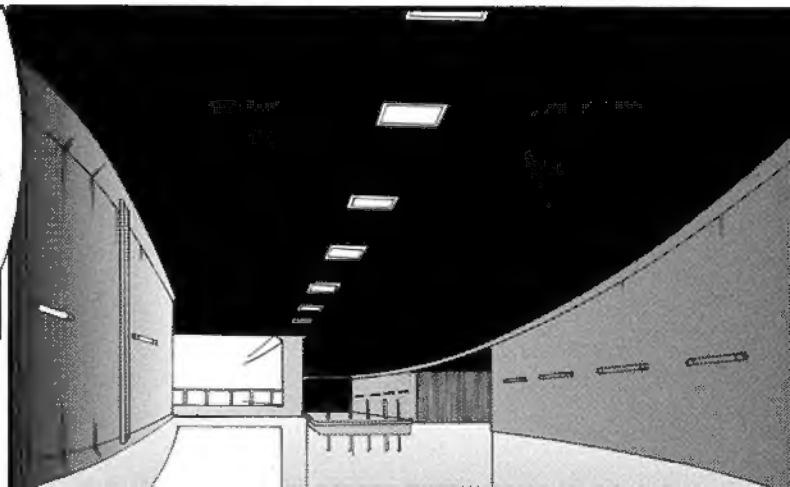
THIS IS A RITE MADE POSSIBLE BY THE SEVEN STARS.
ALL TO MAKE THIS CHOICE.
FOR THE KING'S DEBUT.


ONLY CONVICTIONS WEIGHTY ENOUGH TO TIP THE SCALES...
...CAN SUMMON THE MIRACLE WE CALL THE LAND OF THE DEAD.

YES .....

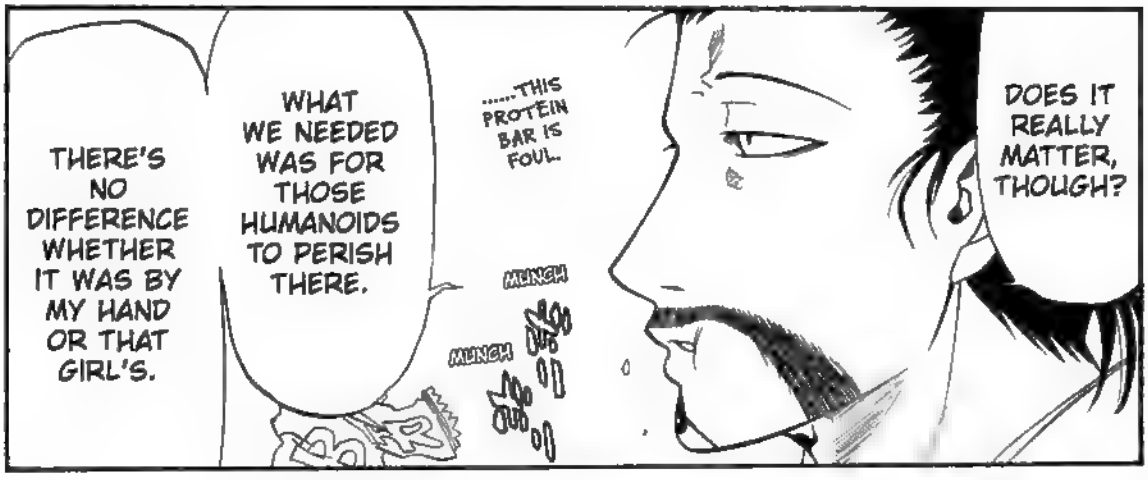
...THE SEVEN STARS WILL YIELD SOMEONE TENACIOUS ENOUGH WHO EMBODIES THAT SHIKABANE ESSENCE.
SO YOU'RE EXPECTING ...
.....I SEE.

EXPLAIN THIS, HAZAMA.

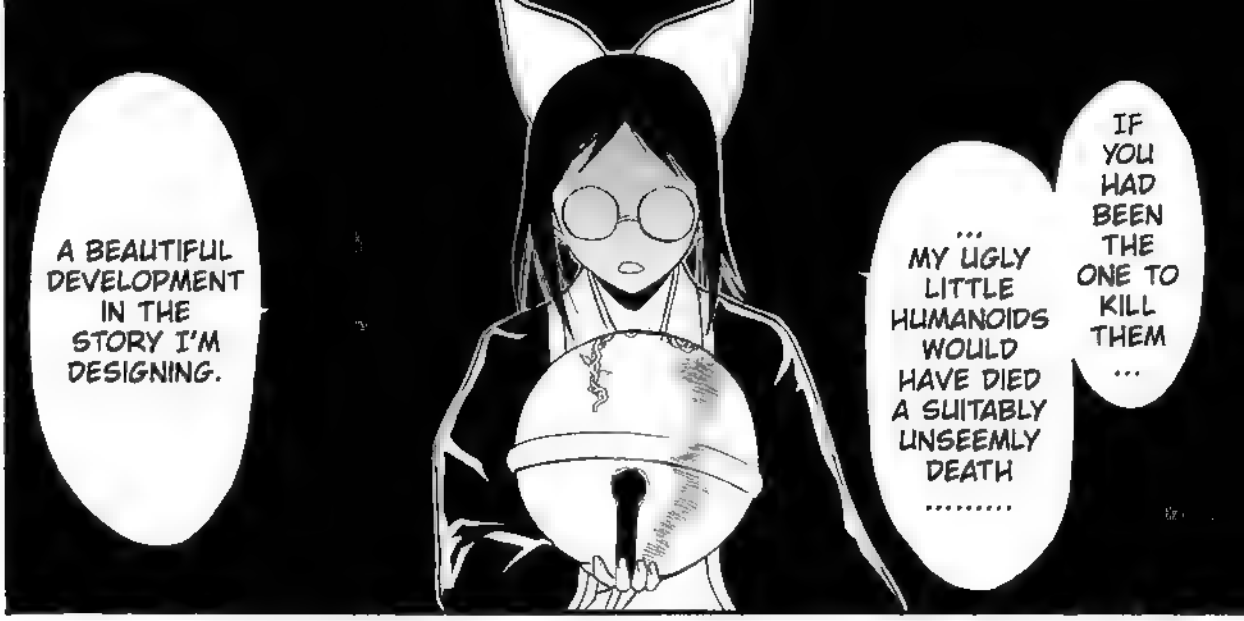


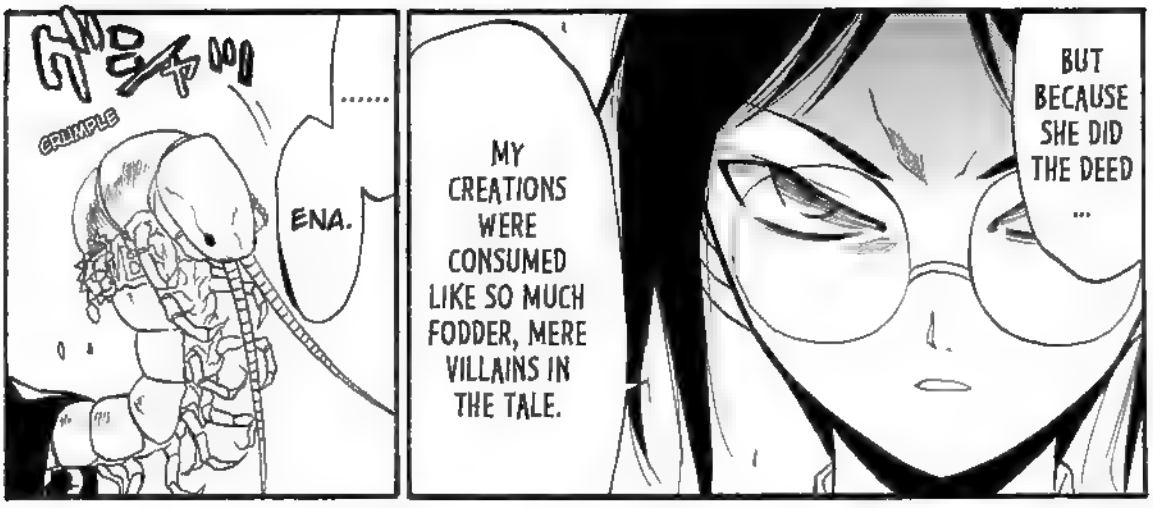
WHAT-EVER DO YOU MEAN?

THE HUMANOIDS. MY CRE-ATIONS.
IT WAS THAT CORPSE PRINCESS WHO BROKE THEM. NOT YOU.
BITE
.....
YEAH.

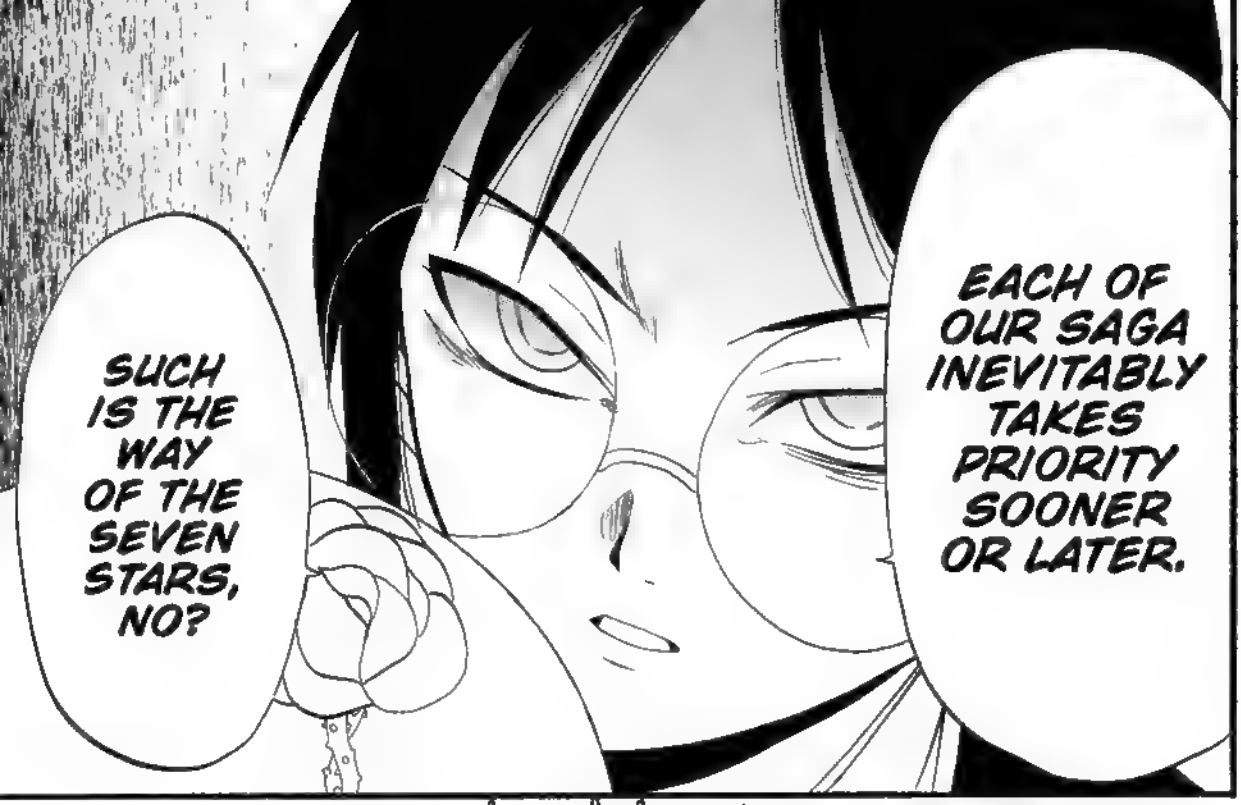

DOES IT REALLY MATTER, THOUGH?
.....THIS PROTEIN BAR IS FOUL.
MUNCH
MUNCH
WHAT WE NEEDED WAS FOR THOSE HUMANOIDS TO PERISH THERE.
THERE'S NO DIFFERENCE WHETHER IT WAS BY MY HAND OR THAT GIRL'S.

.....
I SAY THERE IS.
TWINGE
IT WASN'T BEAUTIFUL... ...THAT IS THE DIFFERENCE!!


IF YOU HAD BEEN THE ONE TO KILL THEM ...
... MY UGLY LITTLE HUMANOIDS WOULD HAVE DIED A SUITABLY UNSEEMLY DEATH .....
A BEAUTIFUL DEVELOPMENT IN THE STORY I'M DESIGNING.


BUT BECAUSE SHE DID THE DEED ...
MY CREATIONS WERE CONSUMED LIKE SO MUCH FODDER, MERE VILLAINS IN THE TALE.
GRUMPLE
.....
ENA.

... DO YOU ...
...EVEN COMPREHEND WHAT IT IS WE'RE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH HERE?
GRUMPLE
.....
YOU'VE GONE SENILE, HAZAMA.
SPOUTING THAT WAIT-AND-SEE NONSENSE.
OH?


EACH OF OUR SAGA INEVITABLY TAKES PRIORITY SOONER OR LATER.
SUCH IS THE WAY OF THE SEVEN STARS, NO?

TWINGE
CRACKLE
...
CRACKLE

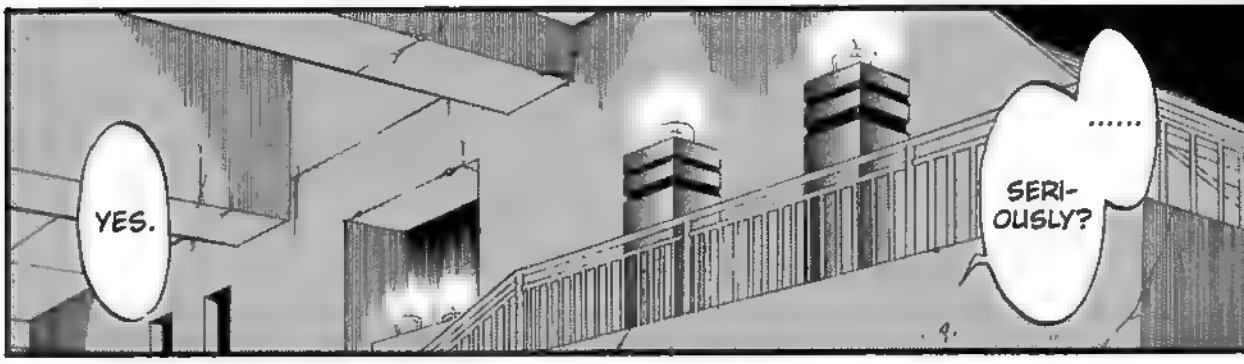
STAND
YOU'VE LOST, HAZAMA.

STEP
CRACK
CRACK
HEH-EH-EH.

AND I BELIEVE THE OTHER MEMBERS WOULD AGREE WITH THAT ASSESSMENT.
YOU...
ISAKA .....!
YOUR OPINION ON THIS MATTER IS A REJECTION OF THE SEVEN STARS THE VERY GROUP YOU FOUNDED.
...
HE-HE-HE-HE-HE-HE-HE-HA-HA.
HEH-EH.
HEH.
.....
...SO THAT WE MIGHT PERFORM IT OUR WAY.
WE WERE GIVEN THIS TASK ...
WE ARE THE SEVEN STARS, FIRST AND FOREMOST.
YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.
UN-DOUBT-EDLY.

I'LL STEP BACK AND SUBMIT TO THAT STYLE OF OURS.
ISAKA.
YES?
YOU AND ENA GO TO THE SCHOOL. BEGIN THE LAND OF THE DEAD EXPERIMENT.
VERY WELL.
HUH !?
HOLD ON!! WHY !?
WHY NOT ME ALONE!?
WAGGLE
THIS EXPERIMENT IS A MORE DELICATE MATTER THAN YOU'RE IMAGINING.
WAGGLE
EXTREME VIGILANCE IS REQUIRED ONCE YOU BEGIN.
BECAUSE IF MORE MONKS THAN WE ANTICIPATE END UP INTERFERING, IT WILL FAIL.
ISAKA AND HIS "LOCALE" WILL PREVENT THAT.
WE CAN ENJOY OURSELVES ALL THE MORE IF WE'RE ADEQUATELY PREPARED. THAT'S ALSO OUR STYLE.
SO JUST ACCEPT IT.
!!
FINE, THEN.
WHAT ABOUT YOU? JUST GOING TO WATCH US LIKE A GLORIFIED SPECTATOR ?
NO .....

!
I...
...WILL BE INTRODUCING HOKUTO TO THE KING.


YES.
.....
SERI-OUSLY?

SHE'LL DO A NUMBER ON HIM.
TO THINK ANYONE BESIDES US WOULD WANT TO MEET HOKUTO-CHAN...
EHH... I REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW THESE BIGSHOTS THINK.

THE KING'S INTEREST HAS BEEN PIQUED EVER SINCE I MENTIONED HOKUTO.
HE'S EAGER TO ASSESS *HER VALUE.*

THAT'S WHY I WANT HIM TO OBSERVE HOKUTO'S *CONDITION* AND MAKE A JUDGMENT, BUT...
INDEED.

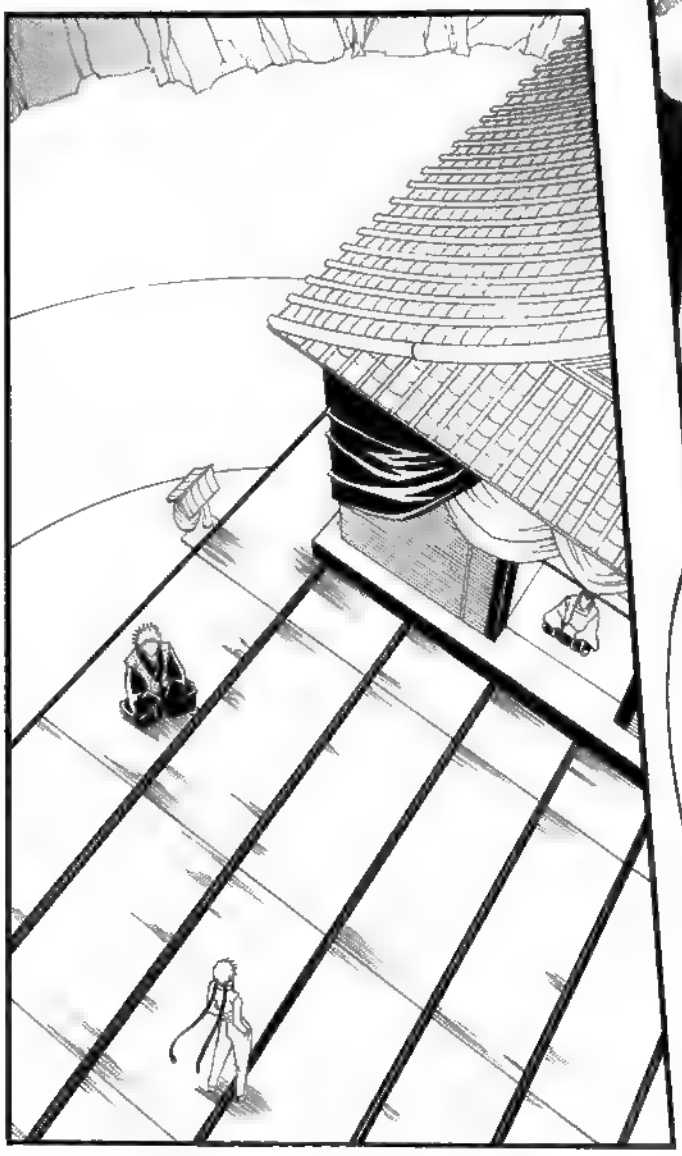
NO, THAT'S NOT RIGHT.
THAT'S NOT OUR WAY OF DOING THINGS.
WHATEVER HAPPENS, I'LL STAY TRUE TO THE SEVEN STARS. THIS I PLEDGE, HERE AND NOW.

I'LL JUST SHUT UP AND DO MY WORK.
AHH. HAVE FUN, THEN.

..... CARE TO JOIN ME?
HARDLY!

WISDOM AND STRENGTH WILL MEAN NOTHING.
LIFE AND DEATH WILL BE EQUALIZED.
A TRULY PRIMEVAL NIGHTMARE.

WHAT YOU TWO ARE ABOUT TO TOUCH ON...
...WILL BE THE FIRST TRUE REALIZATION OF HELL ON EARTH.



SOUNDS WONDERFUL.
A GOAL WORTHY OF OUR EFFORTS, FOR SURE.

I SEE.
NO WONDER WE HAVEN'T BEEN CALLED IN LATELY.
AND THAT'S HOW IT IS.
YOU GUYS'VE BEEN HAVING FUN WITHOUT US THIS WHOLE TIME.
POOM
PISSES ME OFF.
WHY NOT GIVE US A PIECE OF THE ACTION?
YOU STILL HALF-ASLEEP, OH GREAT VENGEFUL GHOST ?
WE'RE YOUR PARTNERS IN ALL THIS.
NOT JUST WORKER BEES TO PUSH AROUND.
WATCH YOURSELF, NO-LIFE KING.
THE LAND OF THE DEAD EXPERIMENT AND YOUR ORDERS, WHATEVER THEY MAY BE...
...ARE ALL TO BE CARRIED OUT ACCORDING TO OUR KING'S PROFOUND DESIGNS.

FOOM
I DO EXPECT GREAT THINGS FROM YOU.
SO REJOICE.
SNAP
AEGIS.
FWOOM
!

...RIGHT.
UNDER-STOOD, MY KING.
GOTTA PLAY ALONG .....
..... DAMN.
..... SHIT!! THIS PRESSURE... IT'S INDESCRIBABLE .....!!
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
.....!

RUMBLE
ぺたん
STEP
ぺたん
STEP
MY KING..... I ARRIVE LATE TO YOUR SUMMONS. I APOLOGIZE.
HOWEVER... NOW THAT THE DECISION'S FINALLY BEEN MADE, I'VE BROUGHT HER.
SHE IS..... THE PINNACLE OF OUR SEVEN STARS. OUR CORNERSTONE.
ぺたん
STEP

HOKUTO OF THE SEVEN STARS.

BLANKLY
DON'T WORRY.
I'M NOT.
SHE IS WITHOUT DOUBT THE STRONGEST OF THE SEVEN STARS..... OUR HOKUTO.
FUR-THER-MORE .....
THIS GIRL'S REALLY YOUR PINNACLE OR CORNERSTONE OR WHATEVER, HAZAMA?
LOOKS LIKE SHE CAN'T EVEN TELL WHAT SHE'S LOOKING AT.
..... WHOA. SERI-OUSLY?
...SHE PERCEIVES THE ESSENCE OF ALL THAT SHE SEES.
SO DON'T WORRY.
WHEREVER HOKUTO LOOKS...
SWIRL
SWIRL
HUH ?
SWIRL

THE ROYAL THRONE, HOKUTO.
THE KING WISHES TO MEET WITH YOU.
..... MR. BUG.
WHERE... AM I?
.....!
..... KING ?

!
A BLACK... SUN...
AHAH. ..... IT'S TRUE .....
HOKU-TO!! WAIT...
FWIP
—!! SHE'S GOING TO...!!
FOOM
FOOM
... THE KING ...
SO THAT'S ...
WHAM
!!
SLAM

CRUMBLE
GUH.
DAMN.
CALM YOURSELF .....
!?
HO-KUTO !!
FWSH

!!
WHOOSH
LEAP

AHHH.
FWOOM
HHH.
BOOM
RUMBLE

BAM
!!
AH.
AH.
AH.
WRIGGLE
WRIGGLE
HEH-EH...
NO .....
I MEAN, I DIDN'T EXPECT HER REACTION WOULD BE THIS INTENSE.
...YOU MEANT TO BRING THIS SIMPLETON BEFORE HIS HIGHNESS .....?
HA-ZAMA... FROM THE START, YOU .....
WHAT'S HER DEAL .....?
..... WHOA ...

IT'S FINE.
YOUR HIGH-NESS.
!
... AH.
THE ...
THE... SUN.
HMPH... A MYS-TERIOUS YOUNG WOMAN.
I CAN'T BEGIN TO PRESUME HOW SHE PERCEIVES ME, BUT THAT SHE WOULD LOOK AT ME AS A PILGRIM DOES A SAVIOR..... HOW FASCINATING.
I SHALL PARDON HER.
VERY WELL, MISS.
SHOULD YOU TRIUMPH, THIS BODY IS YOURS TO TAKE.
!!
YOUR HIGH-NESS !?
I TIRE OF SITTING. LET ME BE ENTER-TAINED.
SO DO NOT INTERFERE, TAMETOMO.
OR ANY OF YOU.
B-BUT ...!!

STEP BACK!
.....
COME FOR ME.
..... NOW THEN.
WHAT'S WRONG, MISS?
:
WHAT YOU DESIRE ...
... STANDS BEFORE YOU.
AH ...
AHH.
SUN... THE..... SUN .....
HA HA HA.

WHOOSH
FWIP
SLAM
AH.
TMP
AH.
SLAM
BAM
AH.
WHAM
AH.
UWAHH.
FWIP
BAM
.....
OHH..... SO FAST .....
YOU UNDERSTAND HOW TO USE YOUR BODY WELL..... THIS RESEMBLES PRIMITIVE MARTIAL ARTS. IN SOME FASHION.
UWAHHHHH!!
BAM
BAM
BAM

GASP
...
WHOOSH
SPIN
KAMPAM
BAM
CRUNCH

WHAT'S THAT IDIOT THINKING !?
SHE REALLY TRYING TO TAKE OUT THE KING?
CRUMBLE
...HEY, HAZAMA !!
BAM
WHOA, WHOA .....
THIS IS A MESS!
CRASH
IS THIS REALLY WHAT YOU BROUGHT HER HERE FOR?
!? HUHH ?
I DON'T GET IT. THIS IS DOWN-RIGHT SUICIDAL.
IT'S NOT GONNA END WELL FOR HER.
HOKUTO... MERELY WANTS TO BE CLOSE TO THE KING.
..... HER INTENT IS NOT TO "FIGHT."
COULD YOU MANAGE SUCH A THING?
"YES" ...?
TMP
YES.
...AND CONFRONT THE KING, FOR THAT REASON?
COULD YOU STAND THERE ...
!

YOU COULDN'T. NOBODY BUT HOKUTO CAN.
LEAP
WHY IS THAT.....? BECAUSE HOKUTO LACKS ALL INTELLECT AND LOGIC... SHE IS PURE INSTINCT.
LEAP
STAND
WHOOSH
BECAUSE..... SHE CAN SUBMIT TO HER DEEPEST, MOST PRIMITIVE INSTINCTS AND MOVE ACCORDINGLY.
THAT IS..... THE CORE OF WHAT MAKES A SHIKABANE..... REGRETS AND CONVICTIONS.

A SHIKABANE PURE-BREED. THE NORTHERNMOST STAR...
THAT IS HOKUTO OF THE SEVEN STARS.

WE SEVEN STARS ARE A MERE WARNING.
WE TELL THE WORLD OF HOKUTO, THE ULTIMATE BEING. WE AMASS AND FLICKER ABOUT THE LAND AS A SIGN OF HER COMING.

A SWARM THAT APPEARS LIKE MIST AND KILLS LIKE A PLAGUE.
WE ARE THE SEVEN STARS.
RIP

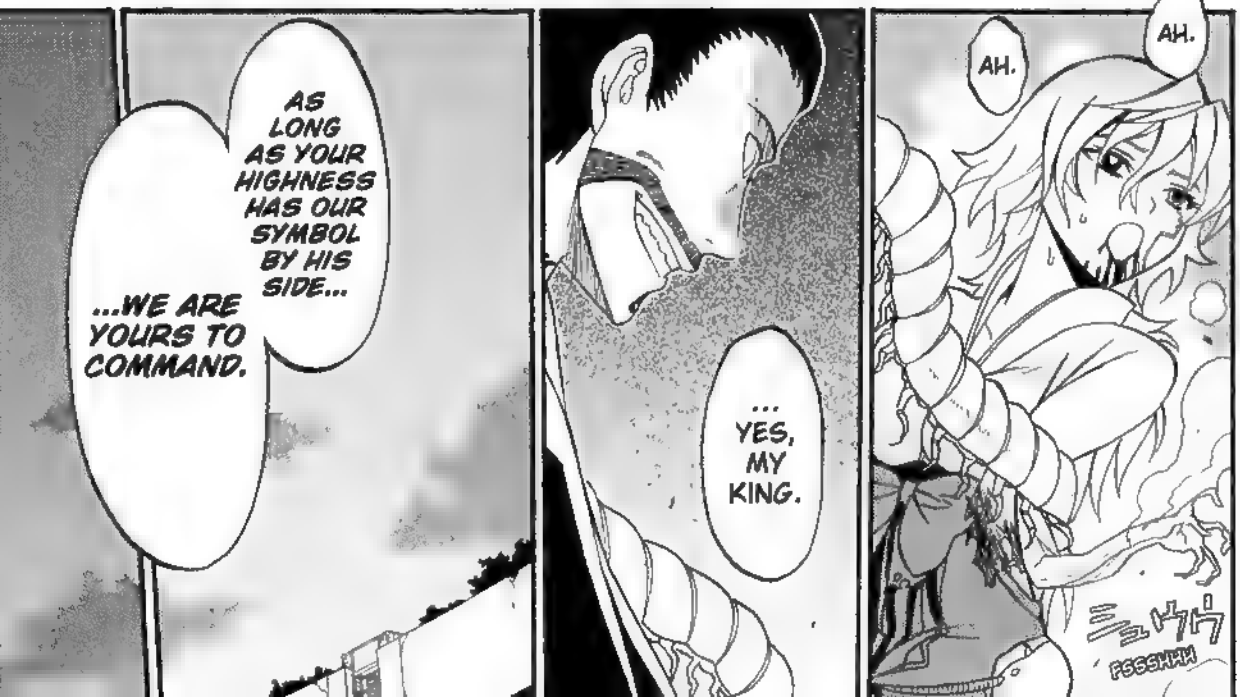
THUD
THUMP
ROLL
AH.
AH.
AH.
YOUR HIGH-NESS !!
I AM FINE.
SHE'S GOING TO BE KILLED.
YOUR LEADER, OR WHATEVER.
THAT REALLY OKAY?
HEY .....
.....
WHAT'S WRONG ?
IS THAT ALL, HOKUTO OF THE SEVEN STARS ?
SWAY
AH ...
AHH.

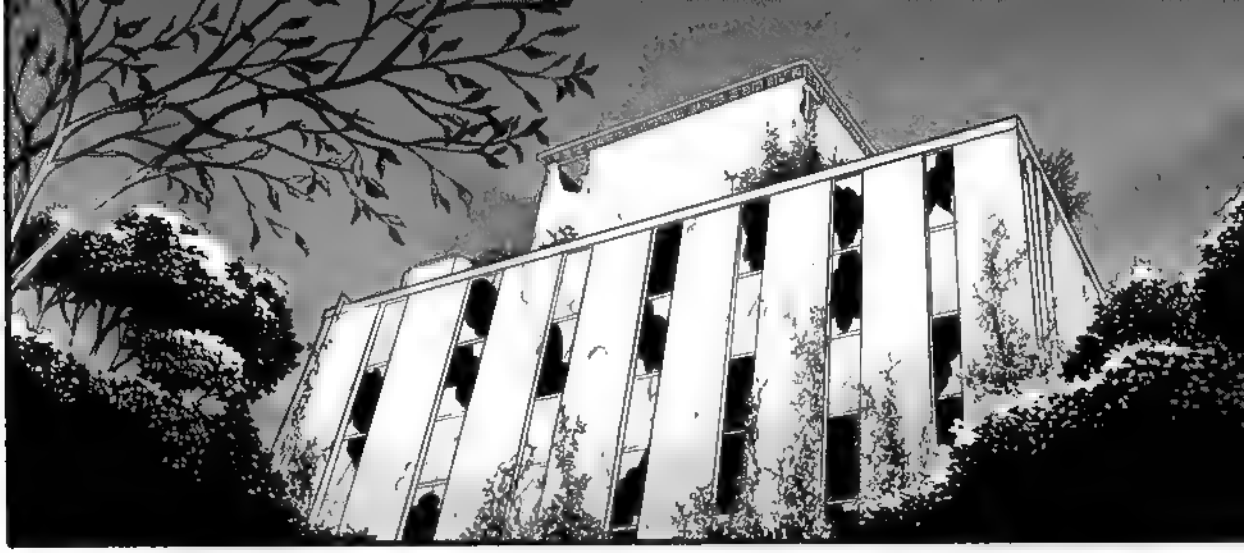
YOU MAKE FOR AN AMUSING DISTRACTION, HOKUTO.
I'VE DECIDED ON MY PLAN, THANKS TO YOU. I PRAISE YOU.
YOU MAY STAND DOWN.
AGYAHH .....
GYAHHH!
WRIGGLE
TMP
SUN .....
AH ...
YOUR HIGHNESS !!
CHOMP

RAISE
...NOT SUFFICIENT ?
WAS MY PRAISE ...
HMPH .....
UHH...
GLUG
GLUG
SLAM
CRACK
CRACK
GASP

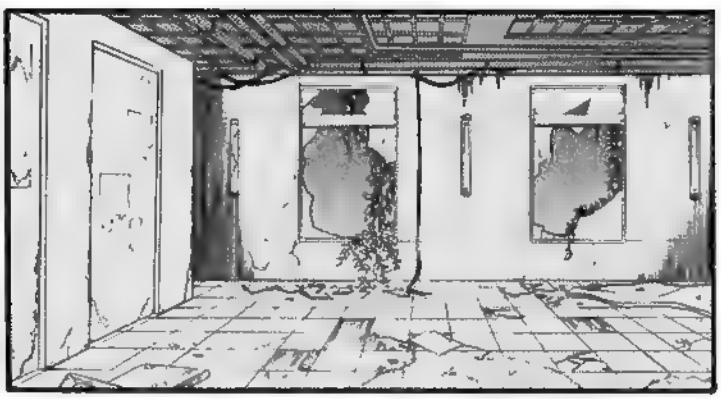
!!
WON-
DERFUL
!!
HOW SHE
ENDURES.....
THAT
TENACITY.....
YES!!

THIS
BODES
WELL,
HAZAMA.
FROM
NOW
ON...
...YOU
ARE TO
AWAIT MY
ORDERS.
FLAP

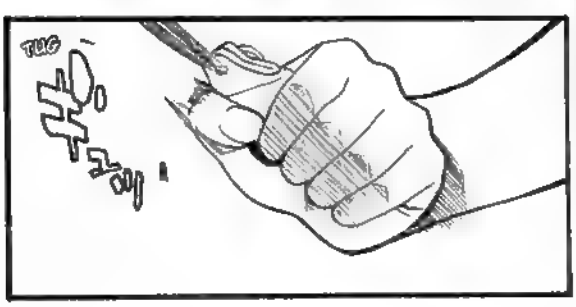

AS
LONG
AS YOUR
HIGHNESS
HAS OUR
SYMBOL
BY HIS
SIDE...
...WE ARE
YOURS TO
COMMAND.
...
YES,
MY
KING.
AH.
AH.
FSSSHHH

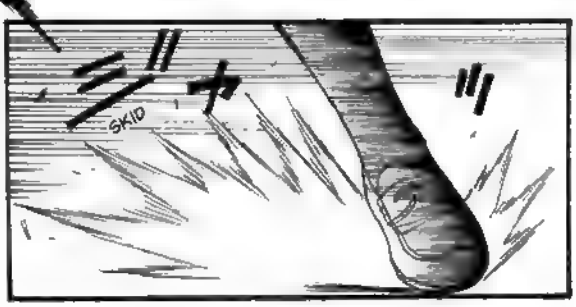


UHH
.....
AH.
AH.



AHHH.
STEP
GAH.
AHH.
STEP
STEP

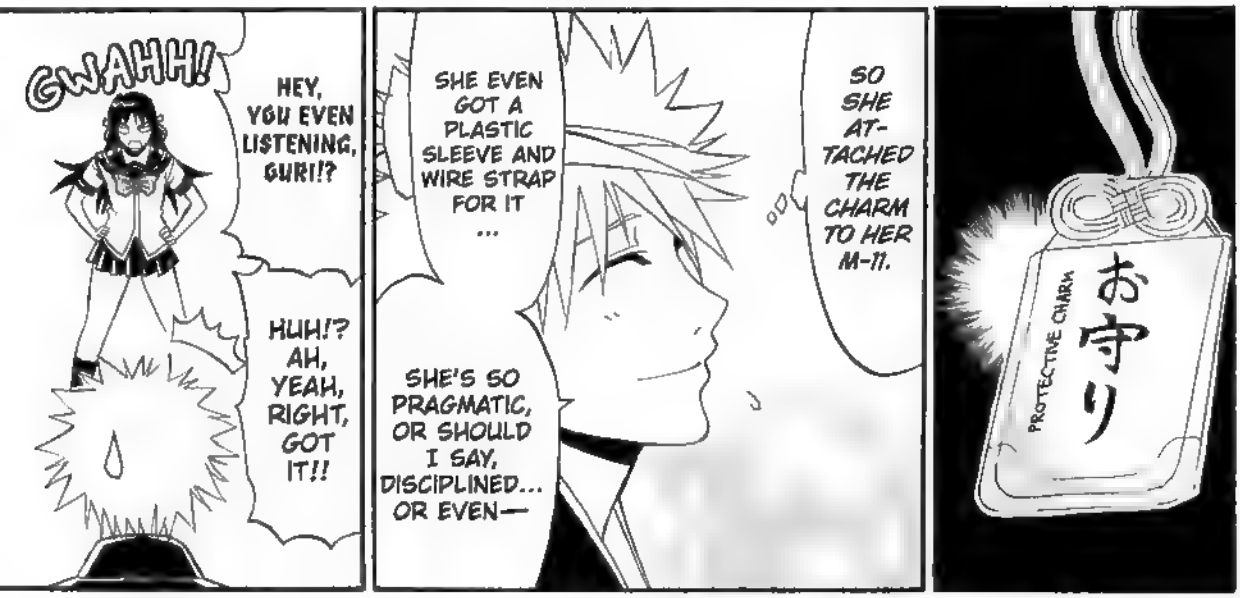

THUD


SKID

SFX: SPLATTER SPLATTER

WELL DONE, MAKINA HOSHI-MURA.
..... AND YOUR CON-TRACT-ING MONK?
BEEP
IT'S OVER, SHIRAE.
... SIGH.
HMM.
OUR! IS...
...DÉJÀ VU?
STOMP
ガシ
UGHH.
HE'S ALIVE.
Very well.
HA.
HAHA.
AM I DEAD .....?

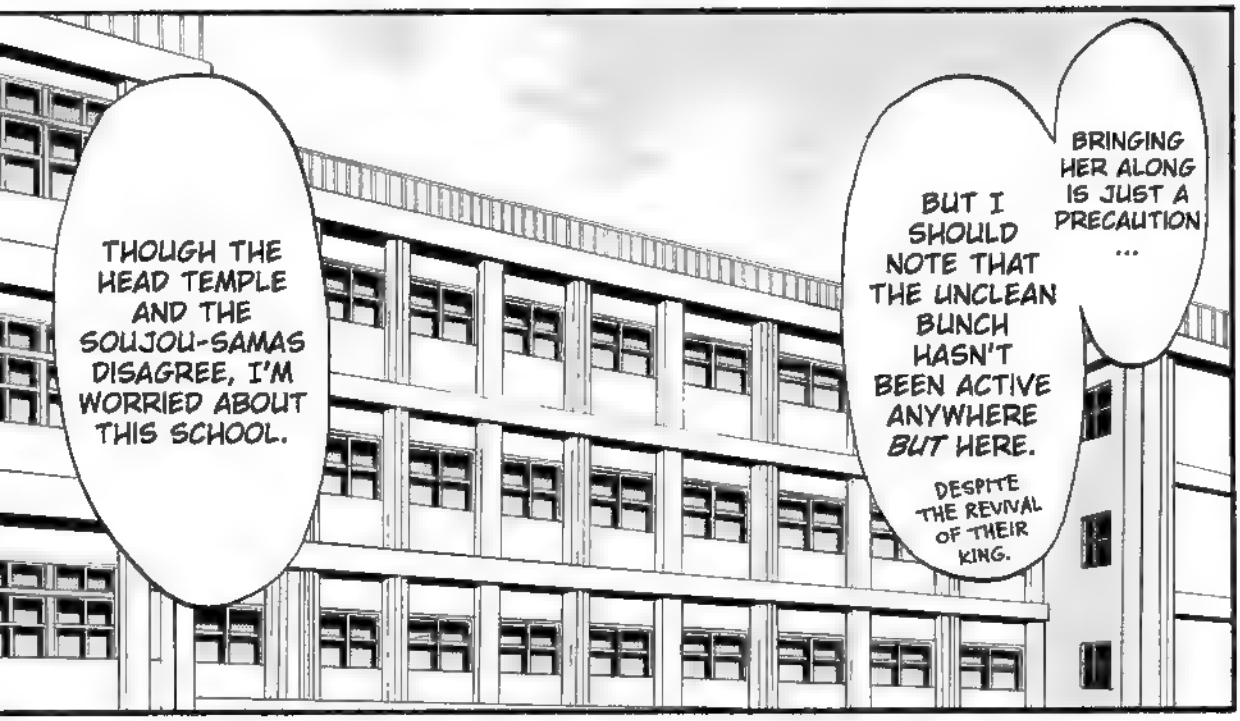
COME ON..... THIS WAS ANOTHER CLOSE ONE TODAY, OURI.
YOU CAN'T JUST WALK INTO THE ENEMY'S TRAPS LIKE THAT.
GLOOM
I AGREE, MAKINA HOSHI-MURA.
YOU HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT THIS FOE STEALS VOCAL CORDS TO MIMIC VOICES, NO?
IN WHICH CASE IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO PROMPTLY SHIFT FROM PLAN C TO PLAN B.
GLOOM
AHH ...
I'M... ALIVE ...
CONGRATS, HE.
AND ANOTHER THING...
AFTER THAT EARFUL ...
GLOOM


SO SHE AT-TACHED THE CHARM TO HER M-11.
SHE EVEN GOT A PLASTIC SLEEVE AND WIRE STRAP FOR IT ...
SHE'S SO PRAGMATIC, OR SHOULD I SAY, DISCIPLINED... OR EVEN—
お守り
PROTECTIVE CHARM
GWAHH!
HEY, YOU EVEN LISTENING, OURI!?
HUH!? AH, YEAH, RIGHT, GOT IT!!

COME ONNN.
GET WITH THE PROGRAM.
SIGH.
KACHAK
THIS IS ONLY THE SECOND BODY I'VE DROPPED SINCE TEAMING UP WITH YOU, OURI..... GETTING TO 108 SHIKABANE KILLS IS A LONG WAY OFF!
...RIGHT.

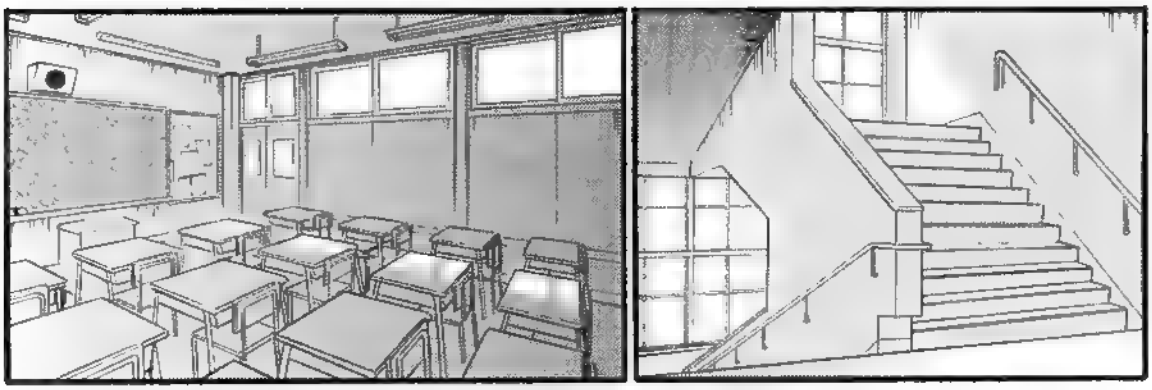
.....
HUH?
TOMOR-
ROW?
PLEASE DON'T BE LATE, BROTHER.
YOU'VE ANOTHER JOB TOMORROW, SO...
パシッ
SNAP
THAT WILL BE ALL FOR TODAY.
THIS IS A FOLLOW-UP INVES-TIGATION OF THE "HUMANOID" INCIDENT.
I ALREADY TOLD YOU.
AND THOSE GLASSES ...
THEY'RE JUST FOR SHOW.
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
.....
UMM.

A LOT OF REGRET WAS SCATTERED HERE WHEN I DESTROYED THOSE HUMANOIDS. IT'LL BE AN EASY TARGET FOR SHIKABANE NOW.
THE NEW SEMESTER STARTS TOMORROW, SO I'D LIKE TO PERFORM ONE LAST INFILTRATION MISSION.
THE ONLY ONES HERE TODAY ARE A FEW STUDENTS IN CLUBS AND PART-TIME INSTRUCTORS.
BECAUSE THERE ARE STILL TOO MANY UNANSWERED QUESTIONS.

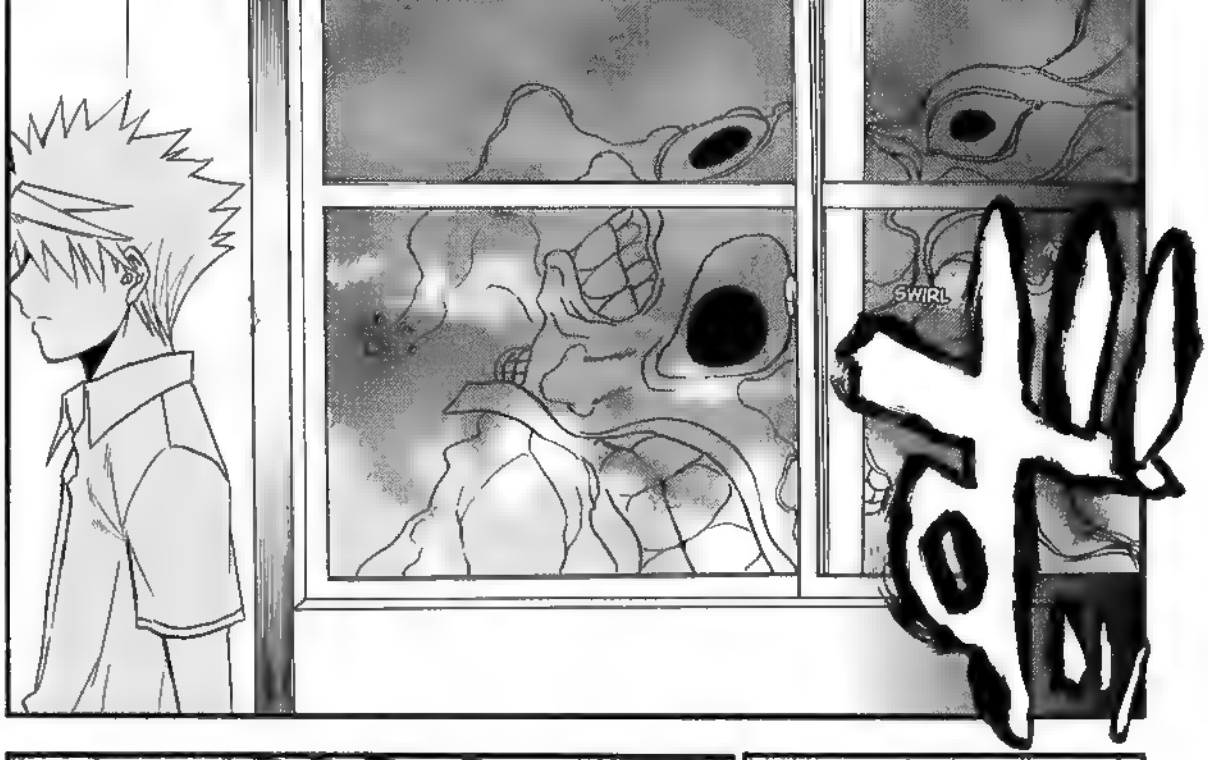

THOUGH THE HEAD TEMPLE AND THE SOUJOU-SAMAS DISAGREE, I'M WORRIED ABOUT THIS SCHOOL.
BUT I SHOULD NOTE THAT THE UNCLEAN BUNCH HASN'T BEEN ACTIVE ANYWHERE *BUT* HERE.
DESPITE THE REVIVAL OF THEIR KING.
BRINGING HER ALONG IS JUST A PRECAUTION ...

PRE-CISELY.
YOU THINK SOMETHING ELSE MIGHT HAPPEN HERE .....?
..... SO...

GOT IT.
LET'S HEAD IN.
AND ASSUMING NOTHING DOES HAPPEN, WE'LL BE DONE HERE.



NOW... JUST GOTTA CHECK OVER THERE .....
I DON'T WANT MY SCHOOL TO BECOME A WARZONE AGAIN.
LET'S HOPE IT STAYS THAT WAY.
NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY ...


SWIRL

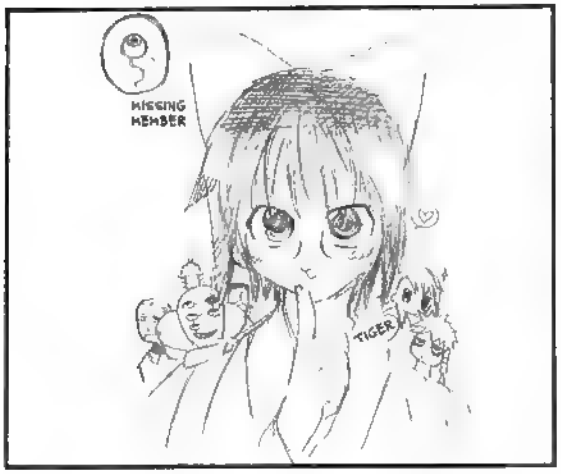
?

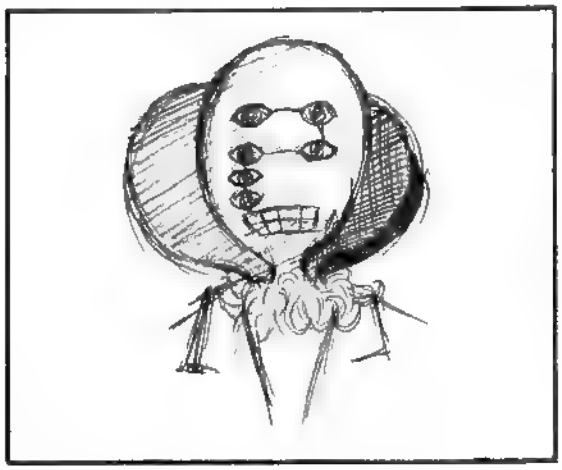
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, MAKINA HOSHI-MURA.
TO CELEBRATE OUR REUNION ...
ALLOW ME TO SHOW YOU TRUE HELL...
...JUST AS I DID AT YOUR HOUSE THAT DAY.

DEATH 31:
KARMA

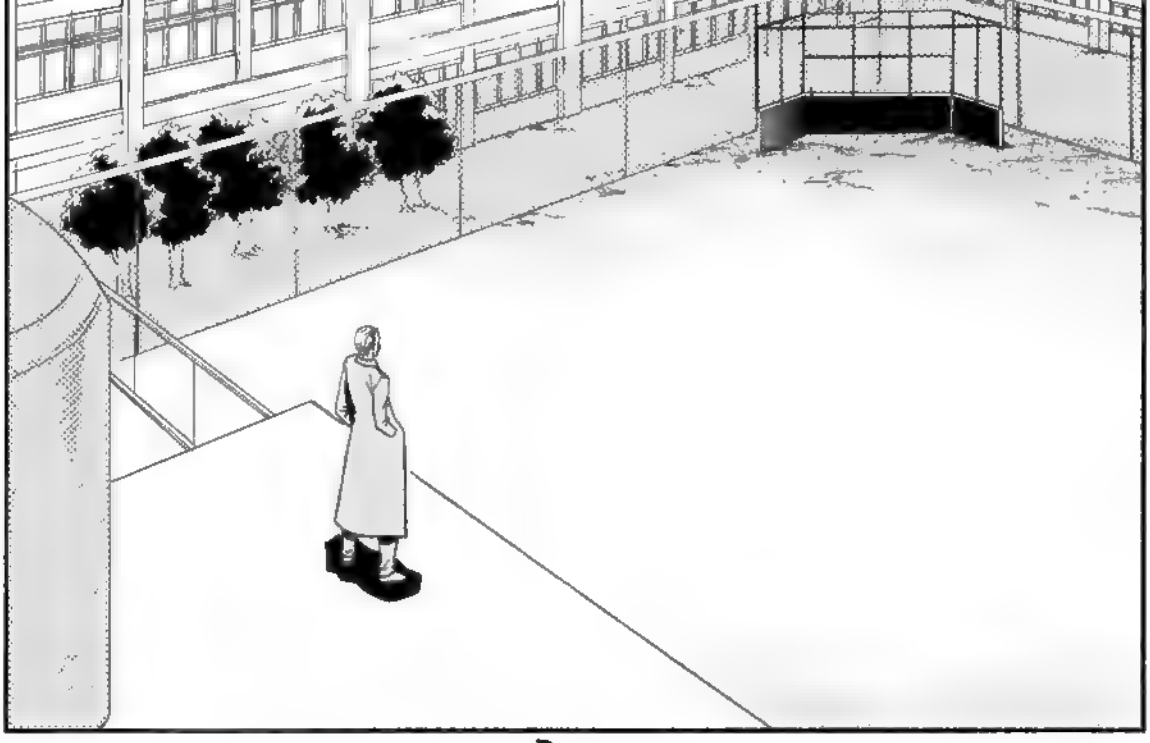
AS USUAL!!

SKETCH-FROM-MEMORY KING CHAMPIONSHIP!!





THE ASSIGNMENT WAS "SOMEONE FROM THE SEVEN STARS."
THANKS FOR PARTICIPATING!



POOM

.....
NOW, THEN.

TAP
SHALL WE BEGIN ?

I'LL ISOLATE THIS SCHOOL FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD.
FWOOM
FIRST .....

WHAT IS IT, OURI?
?
...

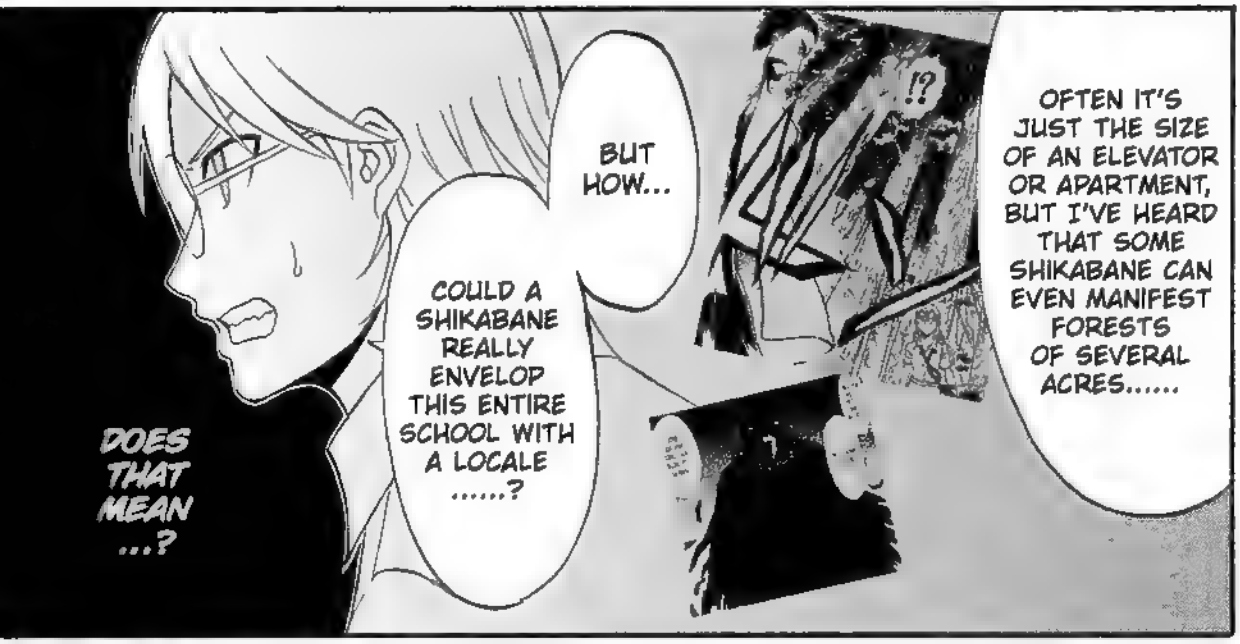
IT LOOKS WEIRD OUTSIDE .....
IT'S JUST ...
..... HMM.

MIST ?
WHAT THE HECK?

!?
SLAM

SERIOUSLY?
...SMOKE? A FIRE, MAYBE?

LOCALE ?
YES..... THAT'S THE GENERAL TERM FOR A POCKET DIMENSION CREATED BY A SHIKABANE'S STRONG REGRETS.
NO WAY.
IS THIS ...
...A "LOCALE" ?


DOES THAT MEAN ...?
BUT HOW...
COULD A SHIKABANE REALLY ENVELOP THIS ENTIRE SCHOOL WITH A LOCALE .....?
!?
OFTEN IT'S JUST THE SIZE OF AN ELEVATOR OR APARTMENT, BUT I'VE HEARD THAT SOME SHIKABANE CAN EVEN MANIFEST FORESTS OF SEVERAL ACRES.....

LIKE BEASTS.....
TCHI
DASH
!?
DOES THAT MEAN THE ENEMY WAS WAITING TO AMBUSH US.....?

...WAITING FOR THEIR PREY TO FALL INTO THEIR TRAP.....
FUFU.
SUCH AN INTIMIDATING FACE, MAKINA HOSHIMURA.
YOU OUGHT TO BE HAPPIER.
WE'RE FINALLY GETTING OUR REUNION.
NOW THAT WE'RE MEETING ...
I KNOW I'M THRILLED.
TWO YEARS AGO, YOU DIED AND WERE CREATED BY OUR HANDS.
AND NOW YOU APPEAR BEFORE ME AS A REGRET-FILLED CORPSE PRINCESS. A SUPERIOR SET OF RAW MATERIALS.
WHAT'RE YOU....
TWITCH

TURN
!?
FOOM
SEVEN...
...TWO OF THEM HERE...?
SEVEN STARS!? THERE'RE .....

SLAM
SNAP
CRACK
GASH
GAH.
TCH...
CRUMBLE

NO, NO, MAKINA HOSHI-MURA.
HEH-EH.
TAP
THAT SIMPLY WILL NOT DO.
LETTING YOUR GUARD DOWN IN FRONT OF THE SEVEN STARS .....
SPIN
YOU'RE GOING TO ONCE AGAIN EXPERIENCE AN AGONY AKIN TO DEATH.
JUST LIKE THIS ...
SPLATTER
SPLATTER
AHHHHHH!!
SPIN
SPIN
AH.

WHIRR
SPIN
SPIN
RIP
RIP
AHHH
SPIN
THE HELL YOU EXPERIENCED BACK THEN WAS SO AWFUL...
OR COULD IT BE ...
...THAT YOU DON'T ACTUALLY REMEMBER? .....UNDERSTANDABLE.
SO PERHAPS YOU— WEAK, CUTE, AND PATHETIC AS YOU WERE— REPRESSED ALL THOSE NASTY MEMORIES.

SCRAPE
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
CLAMP
!!

COUGH
...MBER.
I REMEMBER.
!
TILT

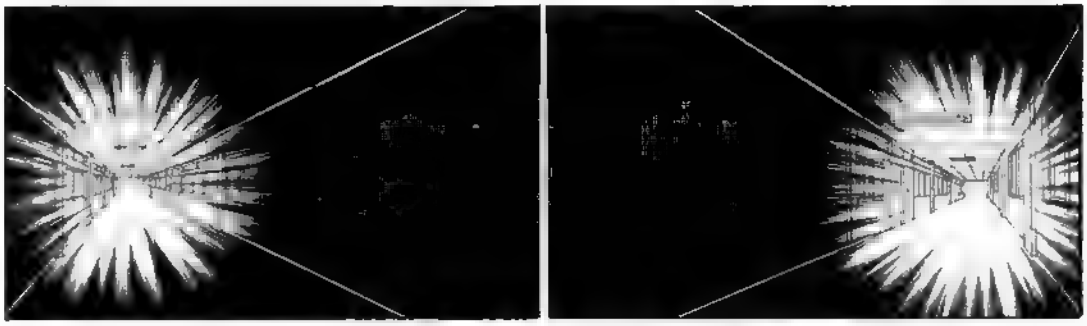
I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN .....
...ANY OF IT!!

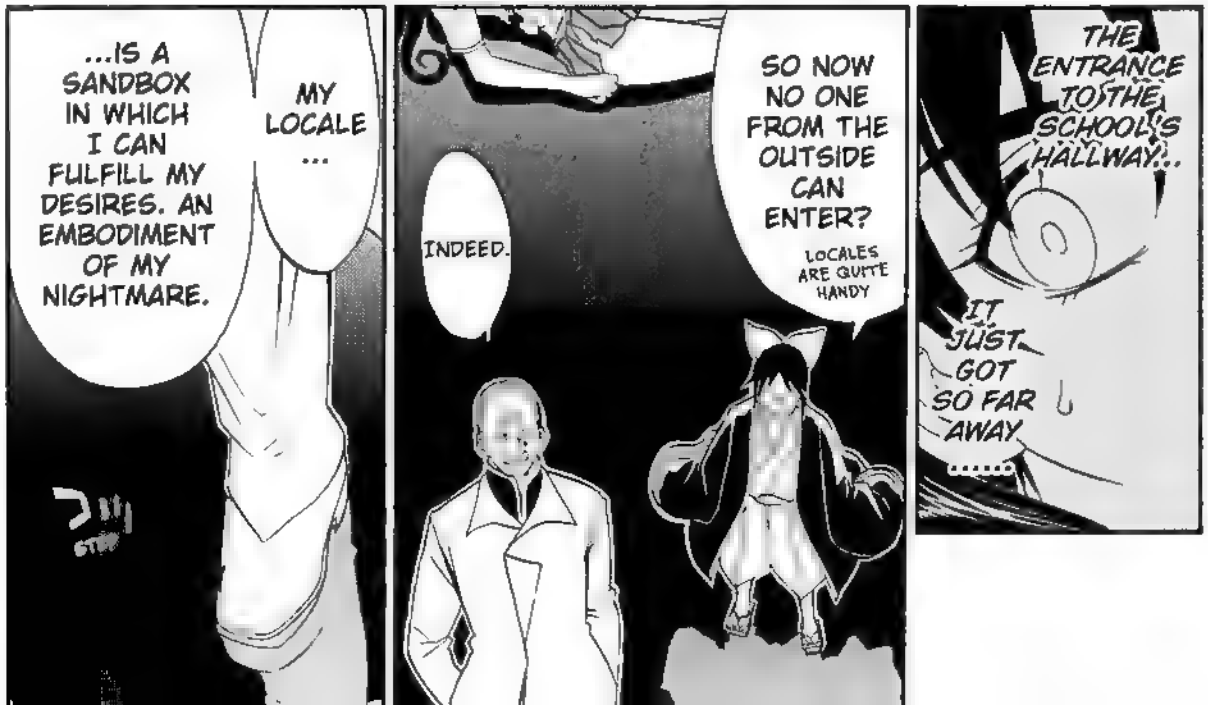
I'M HERE..... FOR YOU.
..... THAT'S WHY I'M HERE TODAY.
TREMBLE
THE HELL THAT YOU PUT ME... AND MY FAMILY THROUGH .....
CLENCH
I DIDN'T FORGET A SINGLE SECOND OF IT.

TO KILL THE SEVEN STARS.
THAT'S WHY I LIVE ON .....!!
WHOOSH
AH.
!!
GWAHH.
SPLURT
AHHH.
GUSH
THUNK
YOU'RE HAVING TOO MUCH FUN, ENA.
STEP
DAMMIT, ISAKA !!
YOU PROMISED YOU WOULDN'T INTERVENE !!
GAHH!!

? WAIT, HERE?
NOT, LIKE, ON THE ROOF?
DO YOUR JOB.
PLAYTIME IS OVER.
ENOUGH OF THIS.
GOT IT.
THIS SPACE IS ALREADY WITHIN MY LOCALE, AFTER ALL.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE.
HELL.
OR..... SOMETHING EVEN MORE AMUSING.
..... ARE YOU PLAN-NING?
..... WHAT ...
!?
WHOOSH
SNAP
LET'S GO.

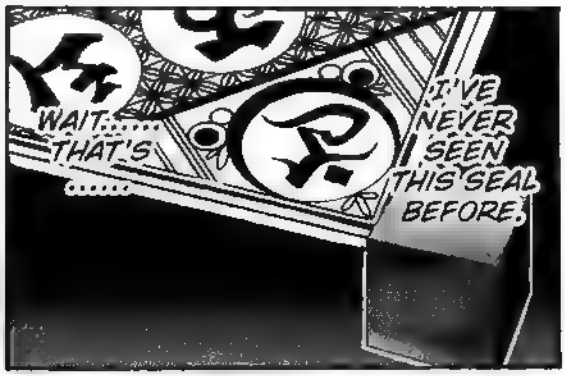
WARP
!!
WARP



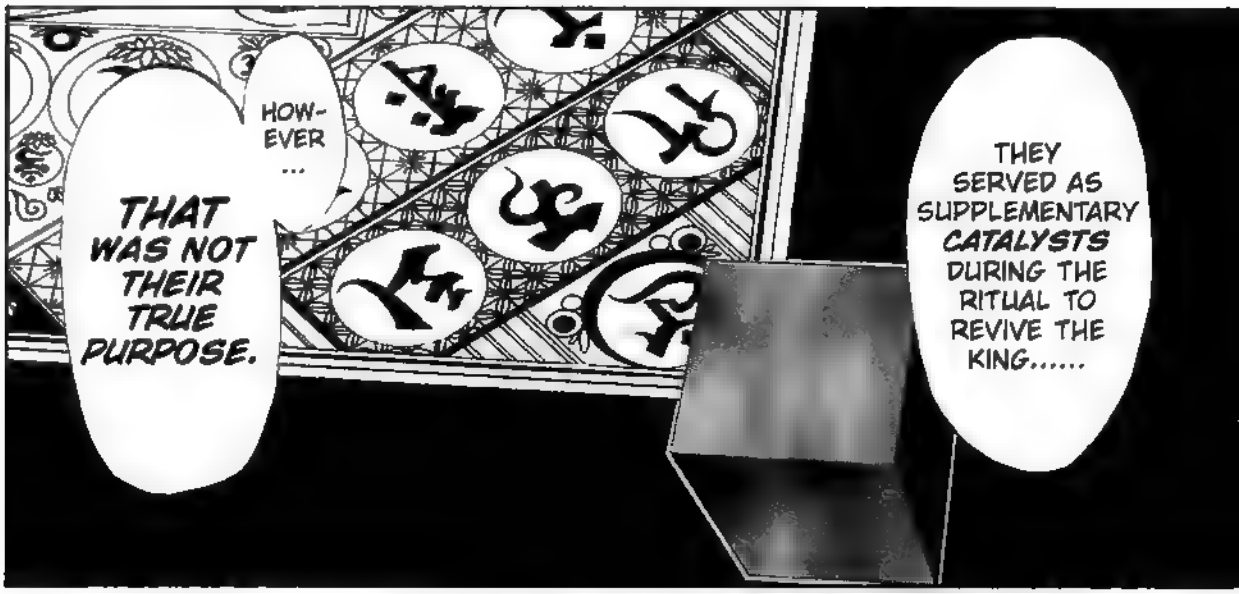

...IS A SANDBOX IN WHICH I CAN FULFILL MY DESIRES. AN EMBODIMENT OF MY NIGHTMARE.
MY LOCALE ...
SO NOW NO ONE FROM THE OUTSIDE CAN ENTER?
LOCALES ARE QUITE HANDY
INDEED.
THE ENTRANCE TO THE SCHOOL'S HALLWAY...
IT JUST GOT SO FAR AWAY
.....

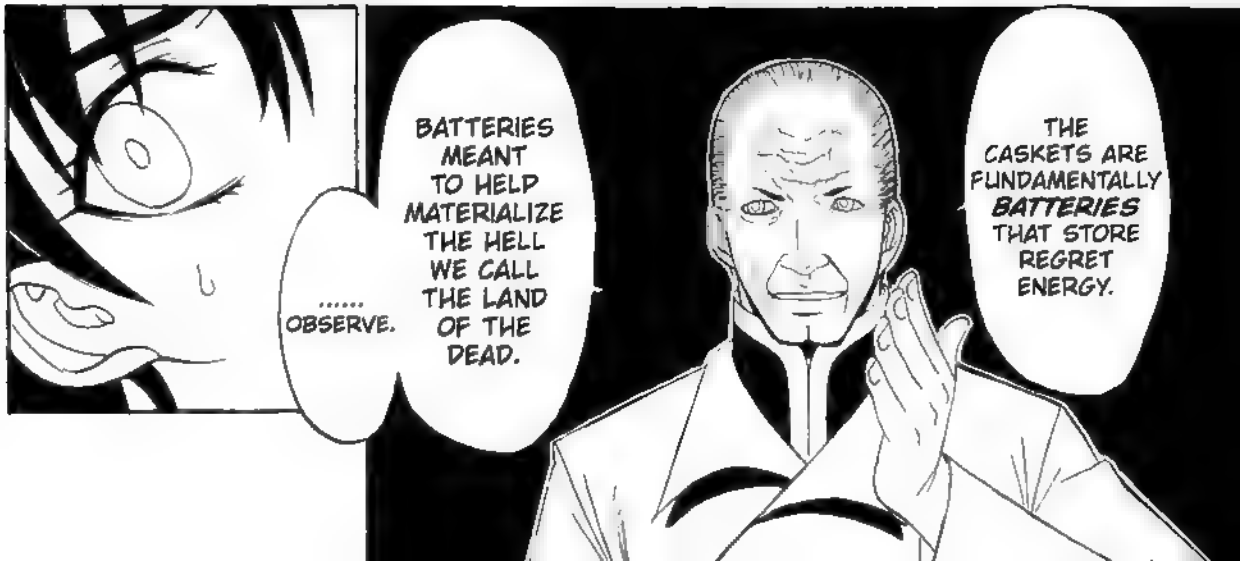
AND SHOULD I WILL IT, IT COULD REMAIN FOR YEARS..... EVEN DECADES.
ONCE SUCKED INSIDE, ANY SPACE BECOMES MY TERRITORY, SECLUDED FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD.
NONE MAY LEAVE OR ENTER WITHOUT MY PERMISSION.
.....
YOU SHOULD BE HONORED, MAKINA HOSHIMURA.
THIS IS YOUR SECOND FRONT-ROW SEAT TO HELL ITSELF.
WELL..... EVEN IF IT'S NOT YOUR KIND OF SHOW...
WITH THOSE WOUNDS, ALL YOU CAN DO IS SIT BACK AND WATCH.
TAP

AH, SO YOU KNOW IT.
YES, IT IS.
A "GRIEF BOX" CREATED FROM THE BLOOD OF 108 HUMANS IN THEIR FINAL MOMENTS.
STEP 11


WAIT..... THAT'S .....
I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS SEAL BEFORE.

THAT BOX IS DEFINITELY .....
A CASKET ?


THEY SERVED AS SUPPLEMENTARY CATALYSTS DURING THE RITUAL TO REVIVE THE KING.....
HOW-EVER ...
THAT WAS NOT THEIR TRUE PURPOSE.


THE CASKETS ARE FUNDAMENTALLY BATTERIES THAT STORE REGRET ENERGY.
BATTERIES MEANT TO HELP MATERIALIZE THE HELL WE CALL THE LAND OF THE DEAD.
..... OBSERVE.

FOOM
PRESS
PRESS
THE LAND OF THE DEAD ...
SWIRL
SWIRL
SWIRL
...IS A TRULY LIMITLESS WORLD WHERE THE CYCLE OF REINCARNATION IS SHATTERED, AND THE DEAD MINGLE WITH THE LIVING.
STRETCH
A WORLD MEANT FOR SHIKABANE.
NONE WILL DIE. NONE WILL VANISH.
STRETCH
STRETCH
STRETCH
WHETH-ER THEY KILL...
... OR ARE KILLED ...

001

FOOM

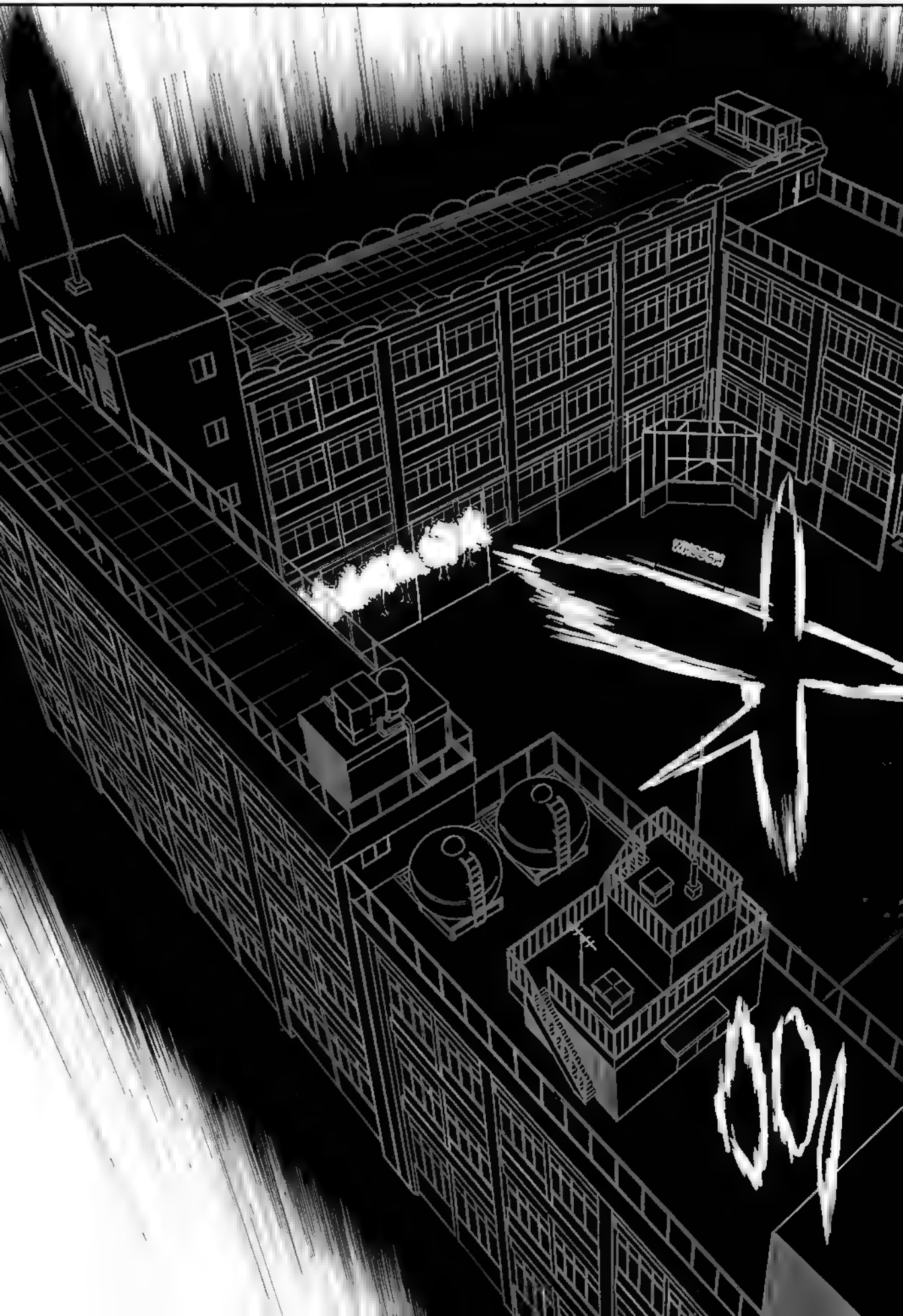
IN *THIS SPACE*, FILLED WITH THE CONVICTIONS AND MALICE OF VANQUISHED HUMANOIDS ...

WE OFFER *THIS CASKET*, FILLED WITH THE REGRETS OF THE DEPARTED.

OUR LAND OF THE DEAD !!

APPEAR BEFORE US, OUR MIRACLE ...

IN THIS SPACE, FILLED WITH THE CONVICTIONS AND MALICE OF VANQUISHED HUMANOIDS ...
FOOM
WE OFFER THIS CASKET, FILLED WITH THE REGRETS OF THE DEPARTED.
APPEAR BEFORE US, OUR MIRACLE ...
OUR LAND OF THE DEAD !!

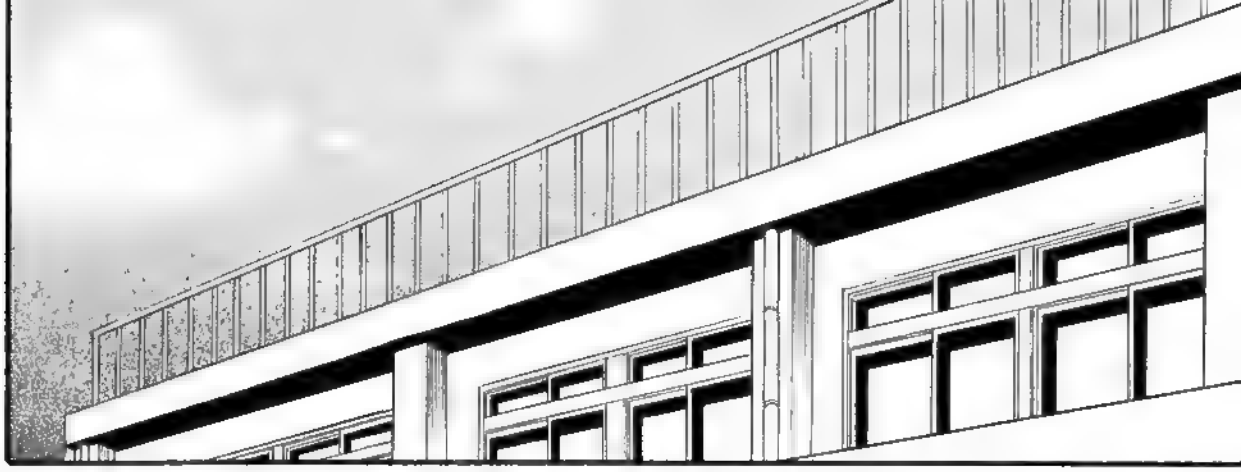

WHOOSH
004

!
STEP
.....
WELL.
TCH
!!
FOOM

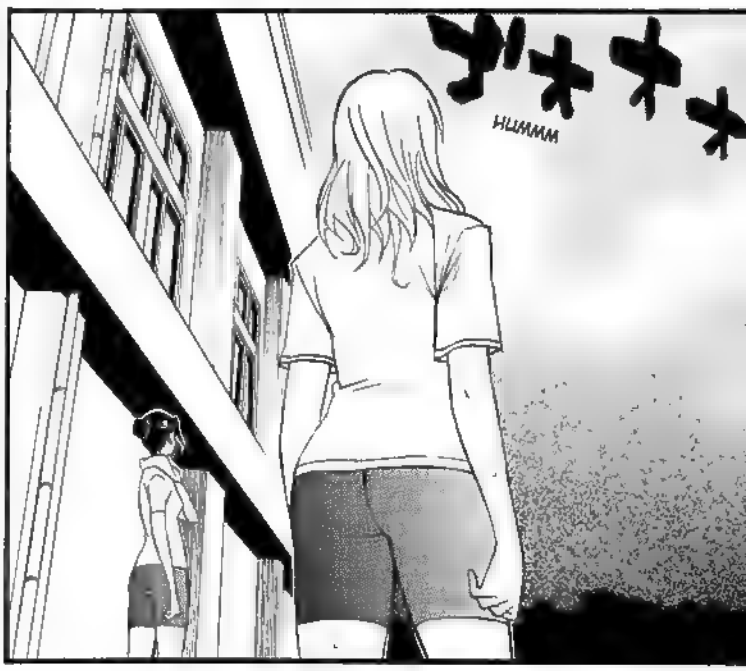
.....
WH—
WHAT'RE
...
...
YOU.....
SAYING
.....?
HOW ABOUT A GAME OF TAG?
SWIRL
?!
SWIRL
SWIRL
SWIRL
NOW THAT A BIT OF OUR WORK IS DONE...
SHALL WE PLAY, MAKINA HOSHI-MURA?

NOW THAT THE MOUTH OF HELL HAS OPENED ...
...I CAN KILL YOU IN AN EVEN MORE EXCITING WAY THAN BACK THEN.
I FEEL A BRILLIANT IDEA COMING ON.
HMM ?
THAT I OUGHT TO MOLD YOU INTO A PERFECT CREATION I CAN BE PROUD OF WHEREVER I TAKE YOU..... THAT'S WHAT, MAKINA.
SLAM

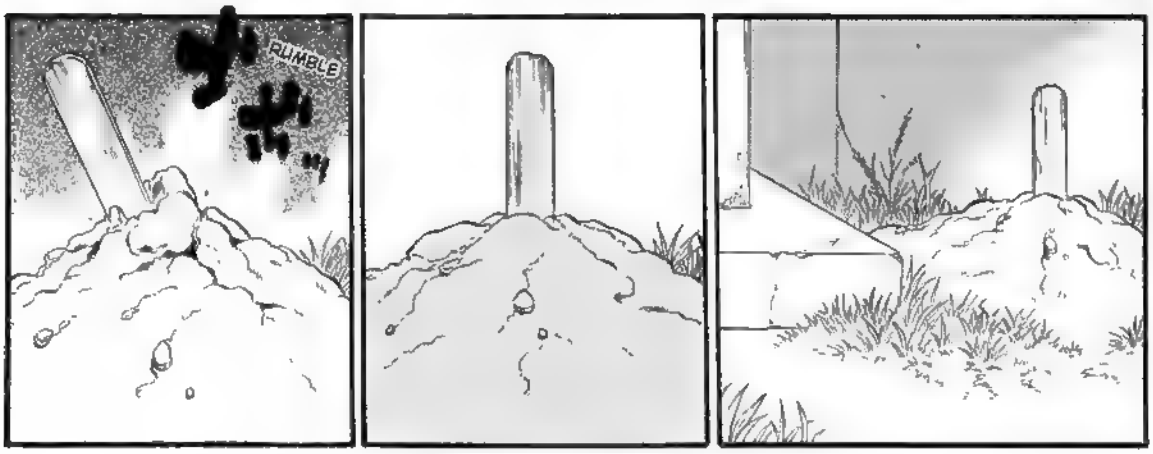
STEP
FUFU.
STILL HAVE SOME FIGHT LEFT IN YOU?
...
GRIND
CRAWL
THEN WE'LL MAKE YOU "IT," FIRST.
BEFORE THIS EXPERIMENTAL LAND OF THE DEAD VANISHES ...
... YOU'LL TRY TO CATCH ME. IF YOU DO, YOU WIN.
IF YOU DON'T...
WELL, YOU'LL PROBABLY DISAPPEAR ALONG WITH THE SOON-TO-BE SHIKABANE DOWN BELOW.
...!?
WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
FUFU. YOU'LL KNOW, SOON.
NOW.
TMP
LET'S BEGIN.



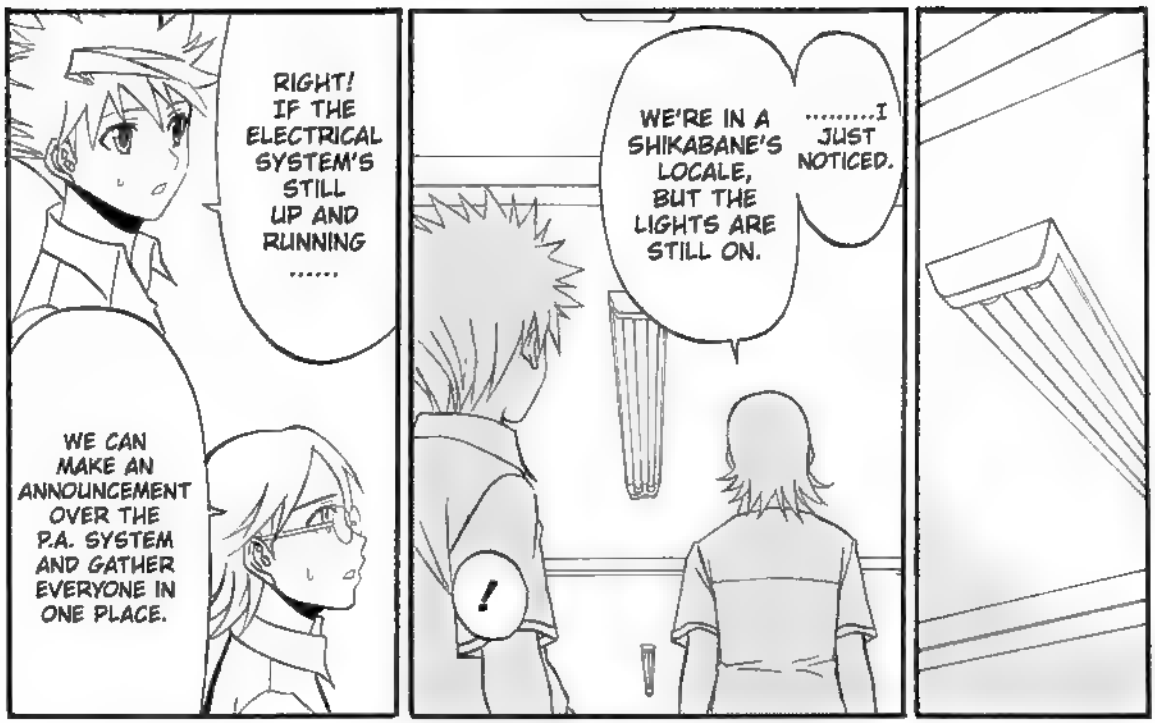
H-
HEY.....
WHAT'S...
THAT?
.....
.....I
DUNNO
...


HUMMM

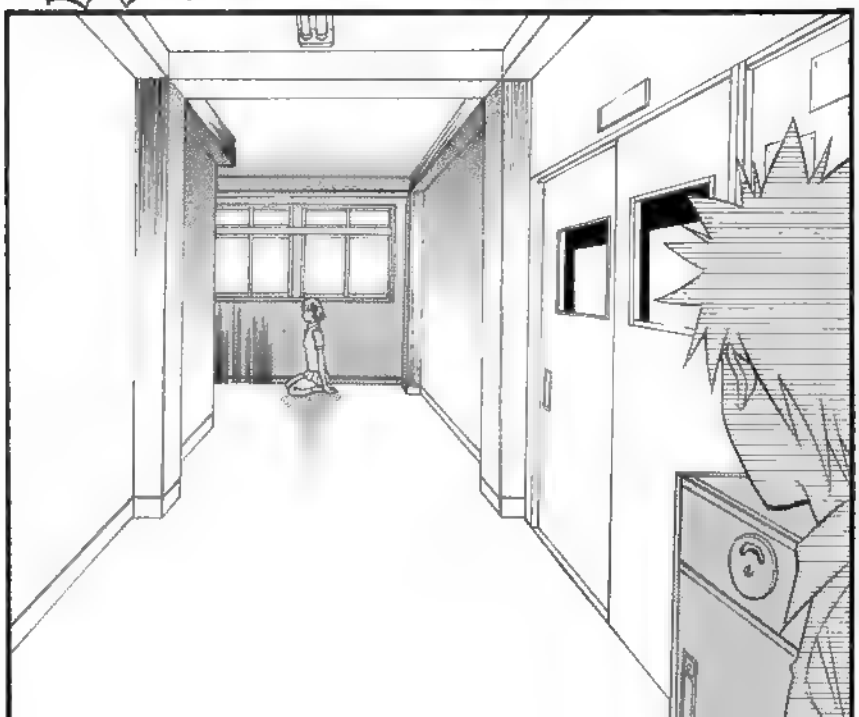
S-
SURE.
WANNA
HEAD
BACK
TO THE
SCHOOL?


RUMBLE

.....
THIS IS BAD.
PEOPLE ARE REALLY STARTING TO PANIC .....
...
...
I'D BETTER SEARCH FOR HOSHIMURA-SAN ON FOOT, THEN .....
.....NO, THAT'S TOO DANGEROUS.
WHAT IS IT, OURI?
.....
YEP.
I'M NOT GETTING SERVICE ON MY PHONE.
TAP
TAP
SPLITTING UP INSIDE A SHIKABANE'S LOCALE IS A GUARANTEED WAY TO DIE.
SO INSTEAD ...
SO..... HOW DO WE ALERT THEM ABOUT THE CURRENT SITUATION .....?
THE TEACHERS AND STUDENTS HERE NOW WON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING ABOUT THE KOUGON SECT OR SHIKABANE .....


RIGHT! IF THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM'S STILL UP AND RUNNING .....
WE CAN MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT OVER THE P.A. SYSTEM AND GATHER EVERYONE IN ONE PLACE.
.....I JUST NOTICED.
WE'RE IN A SHIKABANE'S LOCALE, BUT THE LIGHTS ARE STILL ON.
!

ROAR!!
KYAHHH!
IN THAT CASE, LET'S .....
OKAY .....



.....
AH.
AHH
.....
AH.
TMP
TMP
GROWL
DRAG
DRAG
RIP
CRUNCH
STOMP

GRRR

BUT..... IT'S SO BIG...
!
IT'S THE ONE THE HUMANOID BURNED
.....
!? THAT DOG .....
AH.....
AH.

GAPE
AHHHH!
AH.
TWINGE
...
TWINGE
TWITCH
TWITCH

SKRITCH
SKRITCH
BUT HOW.....!?
THAT CORPSE.....IS ALREADY A SHIKABANE!?
.....WHAT'S MORE.....
IT'S CLEARLY STARTED TO MUTATE .....
WHAT THE...
WHAT'S .....
GAPE
CRUNCH
AH
!!

DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
UHH.
SO THIS IS..... THE LAND OF THE DEAD .....
THUMP
PLUCK
MY CHEST..... IT'S THROBBING..... ALMOST LIKE.....
LIKE POISON IS SEEPING OUT OF MY HEART ITSELF...
TCH .....
PANT
PANT
OOZE
SLUMP
SLUMP
!!

KABOOM
So be quick and .....
KZZT
If you don't hurry.....it'll be too late for everyone downstairs.
KZZT
Now..... Come to me, Makina Hoshimura. .....Come and find me.
SFX: CLINK CLINK

COMING... TO KILL YOU.....
GRIP
AS QUICK..... AS I CAN.....
PULL
I'M COMING.

SO I'LL SMASH THROUGH IT.....!!!
THERE STILL HAS TO BE A SECRET DOOR THAT THE SEVEN STARS'LL USE TO TRY AND KILL ME DIRECTLY.....
IS THIS AN EFFECT OF HIS LOCALE.....? IF SO.....
AN ENDLESS HALLWAY.....
WHERE!?
WHERE.....!?
WHERE.....?

LOOM

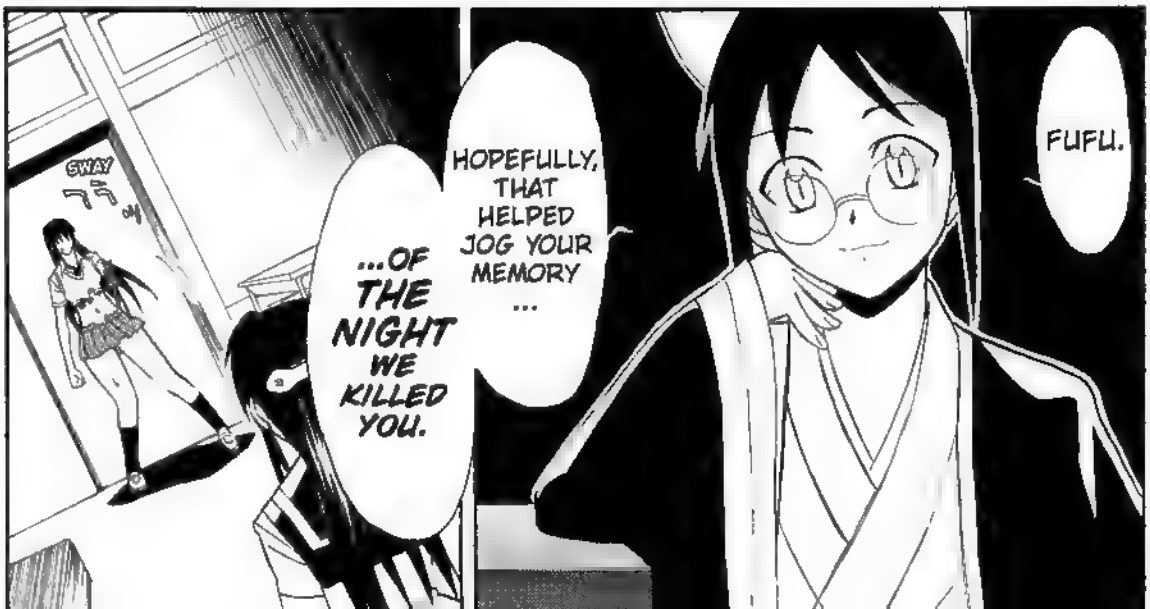
...THIS BLACK FEELING .....
WHENEVER I HAPPEN TO THINK OF THE SEVENSTARS, I ALWAYS GET...

WHOOSH
AND NOW..... FOR SOME REASON...
IT'S LIKE THAT PART'S TAKEN OVER .....
IT'S LIKE RESENTMENT MIXED WITH SADNESS.....
THE CORE OF THE CORPSE PRINCESS SIDE OF ME.....

WHAM
CLATTER
CLICK
AH.
AH.....
AHH.....
!?

BADUM
PLEASE DON'T .....
AHH.
AH.....
NO.
PLEASE

LETTING THAT SCARE YOU.
TOO CUTE, MAKINA.
HUMM
HEHEH.


SWAY
...OF THE NIGHT WE KILLED YOU.
HOPEFULLY, THAT HELPED JOG YOUR MEMORY ...
FUFU.

SCRAMBLE
AHH.
AH
AH.
TMP
!?
WHEN WE DRAGGED YOU OUT OF THAT CLOSET.
TAP
GYAHH !!
THUD
CRACK
SNAP

WHEN WE BROKE YOUR ARMS AND RIPPED OFF YOUR LEGS.
AH.
PLEASE ...
AHH.
AH..... AH.
OOZE
SPARE MY LIFE
AND THEN ...
I BEG YOU.
PLEASE.
WHEN YOU CRAWLED ABOUT THE HOUSE, BEGGING FOR YOUR LIFE.

YOU ARE A FUNNY ONE, MAKINA.
AHA.
BETTER THAN I HAD HOPED.
WOBBLE
!
.....
I..... NEVER FORGOT ...
LIKE I..... TOLD YOU... YOU SEVEN STARS ...
ANOTHER ABILITY OF THE LOCALE YOUR FRIEND MADE...
...IS CONFUSING THOSE WITHIN WITH HALLUCINA-TIONS.....
SO YES. EVEN YOUR PERSONALITY..... I REMEMBER IT CLEAR AS DAY..... I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN A THING..... SO I KNEW...
SLAM

CRACK
...AND THAT YOU'D BE WATCHING IN-PERSON, SOMEWHERE CLOSE BY.
CRACK
CRACK
...THAT YOU'D BE EAGER TO PUT ON THIS VULGAR LITTLE SHOW ...
WHOOSH
NO WAY .....
!
WHAT .....?
WHAM

!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
!?
SHE KICKED THE DOOR AND STUMBLED INTO THE WALL IN ORDER TO MAKE SURE SHE COULD DESTROY IT ALL.....!
.....I SEE.
SHE'S .....!
TCH!
BLAM
BOOM
BLAM
BLAM

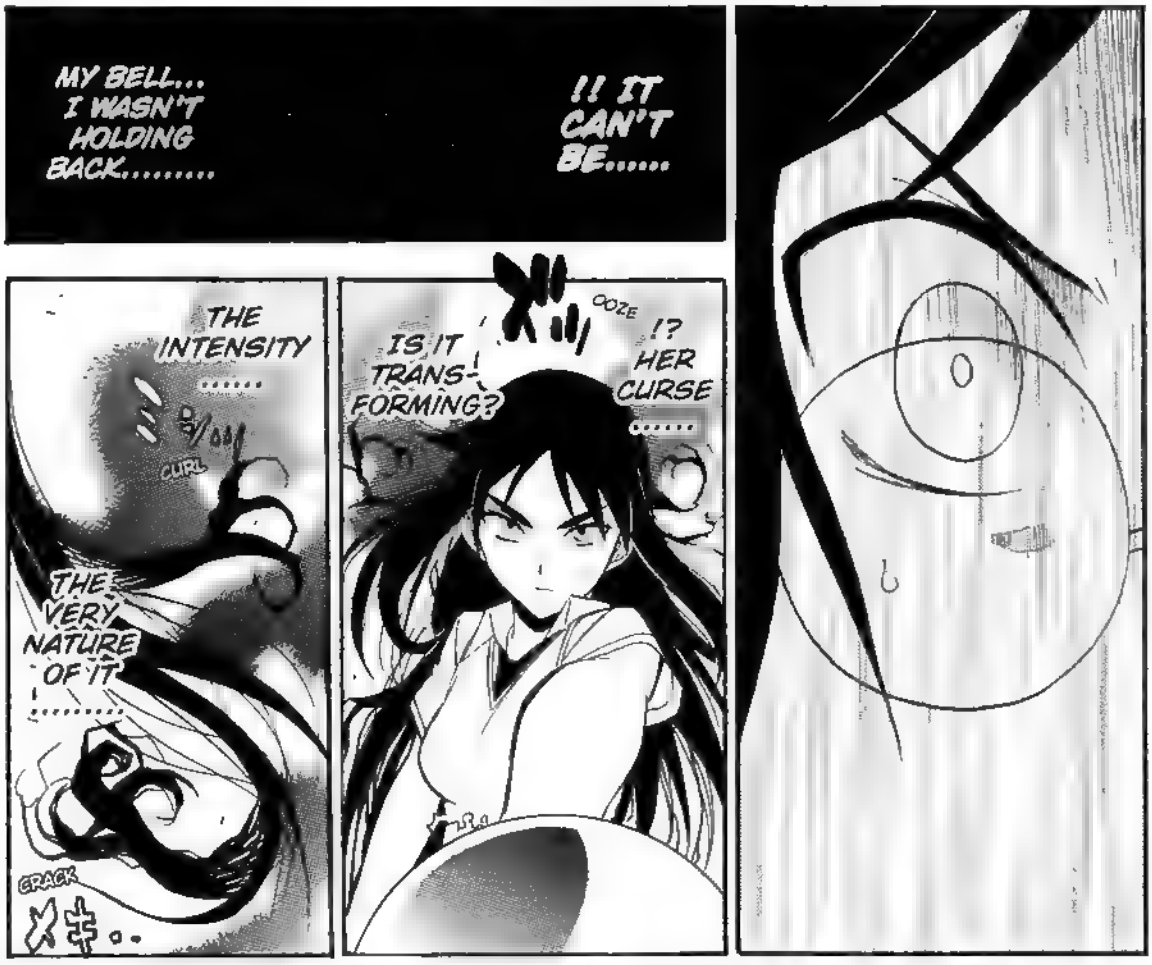
TMP
BOOM
BOOM
SKID
WHOOSH
WHAK

YOU'VE .....
..... CERTAINLY BEEN AMUSING ENOUGH ...
I EXIST ...
...TO KILL YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS. NOTHING MORE.
..... HEH-EHEH .....
.....SO YOU'RE OUR REAPER, THEN?
DON'T UNDER-ESTI-MATE ...
...THE SEVEN STARS.
!
SPIN
SHRED

!
SPIN
SPIN
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
THAT SPINNING BELL'S THE PERFECT DEFENSE. I CAN'T HIT HIS BODY.....
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
WHICH MEANS .....!
REACH

SLAM
SHRED
HA-HA.
FOOL. THE LEVEL OF SPIN EARLIER WAS CHILD'S PLAY, BUT AT THIS SPEED ...
YOUR FINGERS WILL SHRED FASTER THAN THEY CAN REGENERATE .....
WHIRR
WHIRR
CRACK
CRUNCH
!
CLENCH
CLENCH
CLENCH

HALT


MY BELL... I WASN'T HOLDING BACK.....
!! IT CAN'T BE.....
THE INTENSITY .....
CURL
THE VERY NATURE OF IT .....
CRACK
IS IT TRANS-FORMING?
OOZE
!? HER CURSE .....

CRACK
HER CURSE..... DOESN'T COME FROM THE USUAL CORPSE PRINCESS GOAL .....
IT'S NOT ABOUT KILLING SHIKABANE TO REACH HEAVEN.
CRUNCH
CRACK
.....I SEE.

SHATTER
IN OTHER WORDS...
HER CURSE IS ONE THAT GROWS AND IS PERFECTED THE MORE SHE HATES HER OPPONENT.
...MEANT TO KILL US!!
IT'S A CURSE...

DEATH 32: SAGA
IT'S A CURSE...
...MEANT TO KILL US.
SWIRL
!!
BURST

WHOOSH
WHOOSH
GHOSTS...?
HE WAS USING THESE GHOSTS TO SPIN THE BELL .....?
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
CHAK
NOW I JUST ... FINISH HIM OFF ...
THRUST
BUT.....I DESTROYED THAT TOO!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BOOM
SPLATTER

DEATH 32: SAGA

DRIP
DRIP
WOBBLE
.....!
GUH.
TCH .....
SKID
TCH .....
PANT
PANT
HEH-EH-EH-EH-EH-EH.....
HEH-EH...
YANK
...
CLANG
I NEVER IMAGINED YOU'D HAVE GROWN SO MUCH.
NOT BAD, MAKINA HOSHI-MURA.
YOU ALMOST HIT MY HEAD. THAT WOULD'VE BEEN BAD.
MY STOMACH'S FULL OF HOLES.
THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE .....

FOOM
SUCH MAJESTY.
UNDOUBTEDLY, THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE BEEN AFTER. REGRETS, THE LIFEBLOOD OF A SHIKABANE.
EYES FILLED WITH BLOODLUST AND CONVICTION.
A CURSE DENSE ENOUGH TO BE SEEN WITH THE NAKED EYE.
.....
YOU REALLY IN A POSITION TO BE FLAPPING YOUR GUMS?
DEATH IS STARING YOU IN THE FACE.
UNLIKE ALL THOSE OTHER IMPERFECTS, YOU'RE A WORTHY ADVERSARY.
I AC-KNOWL-EDGE YOU.
FSSSHHH

SO WHAT DO I CARE!

HE'S GOT NO WAY OUT OF THIS.....

A TRAP? NO.....

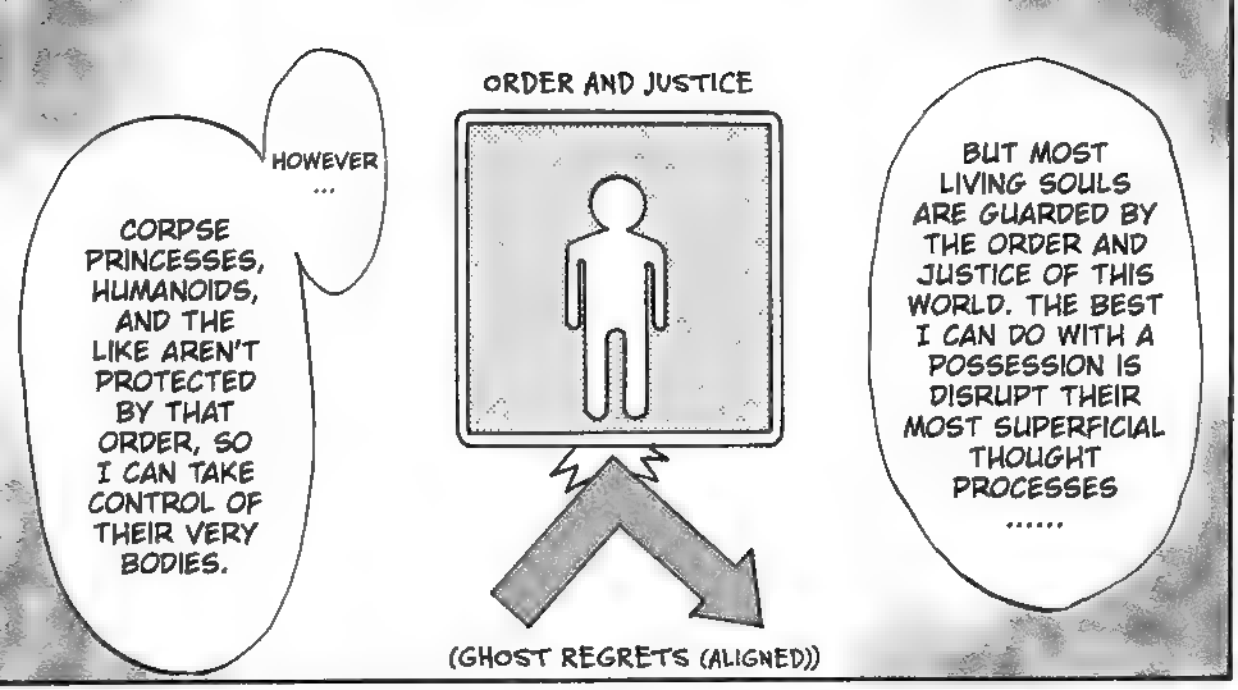
WHAT THE? WHY SO CONFIDENT .....?

!
CLICK
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
TMP
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
...!
WRIGGLE
SNAP
CRACK
CRACK
MY ARM IS TWISTING ON ITS OWN?
WHAT IS THIS.....? WHAT'S GOING ON.!.....?
SO HARD..... THE BONES ARE BREAKING .....?
RIP
RIP
NO PRETTY FIREWORKS FOR ME.
AHA-HA.
TOO BAD.

WHISTLE
AND BECAUSE I'VE RECOGNIZED YOU AS A WORTHY ENEMY...
...AS A MEMBER OF THE SEVEN STARS, I WELCOME YOU.
SUR-PRISED ?
THAT IS MY CURSE, AS A SHIKABANE.
WHISTLE
SO HE CAN SUMMON THEM EVEN WITHOUT THE BELL...?
GHOSTS...? WHISTLING .....?
!
WHAT .....?
STEP
!!
NOW THEN ...
SHALL WE BEGIN?
GRIP

WHOOSH
FAST
.....
BLAM
BLAM
BULGE
BULGE
BULGE
SLITHER
TWINGE
SLINK
WRENCH

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
SLAM
HAA.
.....
WHOOSH
SO THIS ..... IS YOUR CURSE.
MANIP-ULATING BODIES... WITH GHOSTS .....?
I DO THIS BY DRAWING OUT AND MANIP-ULATING THEIR REGRETS.
THE GHOSTS ARE PART OF THE PRELIMINARY STEP..... WHEN I CAUSE FORCIBLE POSSESSIONS.
SO THAT'S REALLY JUST A BONUS ABILITY.
MY CURSE'S SPECIALTY IS MANUFACTURING VENGEFUL SPIRITS FROM THE SOULS OF THE LIVING.
NOT QUITE.


ORDER AND JUSTICE
HOWEVER ...
CORPSE PRINCESSES, HUMANOIDS, AND THE LIKE AREN'T PROTECTED BY THAT ORDER, SO I CAN TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR VERY BODIES.
BUT MOST LIVING SOULS ARE GUARDED BY THE ORDER AND JUSTICE OF THIS WORLD. THE BEST I CAN DO WITH A POSSESSION IS DISRUPT THEIR MOST SUPERFICIAL THOUGHT PROCESSES .....
(GHOST REGRETS (ALIGNED))

TCH.
.....
...THE DEEPER MY CURSE CAN SINK ITS FANGS INTO YOU.
THE FURTHER FROM HUMAN YOU ARE...
UNDER-STAND ?

SWIRL
SLINK
!
AND.....THE MORE MY OWN CURSE TAKES HOLD, THE MORE EASILY MANIPULATED I AM.....?
HE HAD CONTROL FOR ABOUT TEN SECONDS AFTER TOUCHING ME.
THE GHOSTS FLOATED OUT AND RETURNED .....

BOOM
—WELL, I DON'T...
...GIVE A DAMN—!!!!
FWIP
TWITCH
KACHAK
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
EVEN IF PART OF MY BODY WON'T LISTEN.....
EVEN IF YOU GET ME .....
STEP
SQUEEZE
DOESN'T MATTER!!
I'LL TAKE YOU DOWN.....
AS LONG AS IT'S ME MOVING AROUND IN HERE...
SLINK
SLINK
TWINGE
THROUGH THE FLOOR .....
DAMN.....

THUD
STOMP
FWIP
TCH
!!
GRAB

AHA.
GOOD, MAKINA.
THAT TRAGIC RESOLVE...IS BEAUTIFUL.
THE SORT OF SOUL I LOVE.
YOU'RE STOKING THE FIRES OF MY SADISM.
CRACK
SQUISH
THE ESSENCE OF LIFE THAT APPEARS ...
...WITHIN A SOUL THAT STRUGGLES IN THE FACE OF DEATH IS SIMPLY STUNNING.
EVEN IF ALL THE "LIFE" YOU HAVE LEFT...
...IS THAT OF A PATHETIC CORPSE PRINCESS.
YES, MAKINA.
MORE. MORE.
MORE..... KEEP STRUGGLING.
I'M POSSESSED .....
FINGERS..... WON'T MOVE.
SHIT— .....
DRIP

GRIT
BOOM
FLOW
RESIST. KEEP RESISTING .....
HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA.
THAT'S RIGHT!! JUST LIKE THAT!!
LAY BARE TO ME EVERY INCH OF YOUR FLESH AND BLOOD.
TWITCH TWITCH
SPLASH
TWITCH

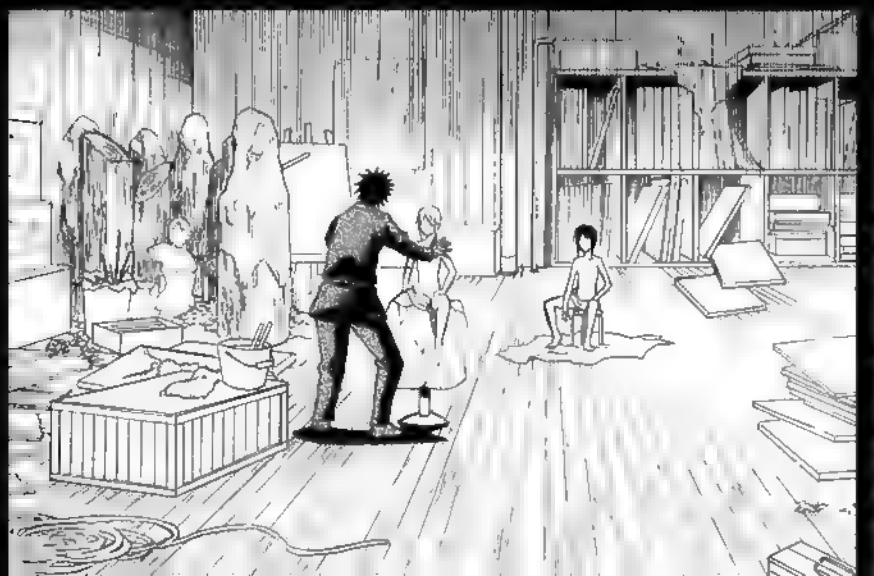
BECOME MY CREATION!!
SHOW ME...
...THE RAW BEAUTY THAT IS YOUR VERY LIFE!!
WELL?
DO YOU UNDER-STAND, IORI?
.....
HUH?

YES. I'M A FIGURE SCULPTOR NOW, BUT I USED TO DO PHOTOGRAPHY AND PAINTING.
AND IT WAS ALL IN ORDER TO PERCEIVE THAT "BEAUTY" OF THE HUMAN FORM.
HUMAN ..... BEAUTY .....?
SO ...
DO YOU UNDER-STAND IT, IORI?
..... NO.
I DON'T GET IT.
THINK ON IT A LITTLE HARDER.
HEH-EHEH.
BUT..... IS THAT REALLY ENOUGH ?
CLENCH
CLENCH
SOME-THING..... IS STILL MISSING .....
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
IN THE WORLD OF FIGURE SCULPTING, TOO, THE WORKS BRIMMING WITH LIFE ARE THE MOST VIRTUOUS..... AND THE MOST BEAUTIFUL.
LISTEN. BOTH INTUITIVELY AND PHILOSOPHICALLY, BEAUTY IS TREATED AS A VIRTUE.
THAT'S WHY GOOD-LOOKING PEOPLE ARE POPULAR.

FOR THE BEAUTY THAT I SEEK ...
TO CAPTURE AND DISPLAY "LIFE" IN AS BEAUTIFUL A WAY AS POSSIBLE ...
...MY METHODS UP UNTIL NOW HAVE BEEN INSUFFICIENT, IORI!!
ANYWAY.....!! GOOD WORK, TODAY. HEAD ON HOME.
.....
OKAY..... SENSEI .....
I'M STILL NOT SATISFIED. I NEED...
SOME-THING

GRAB

HOW DO I.....MAKE THIS FIGURE COME ALIVE? SPARKLE WITH BEAUTY.....? WHAT DO I NEED?
DAMMIT.....! THIS WORK IS NEARLY COMPLETED, YET..... SOMETHING'S MISSING.



RUMBLE
RUMBLE

EH?
AH..... YOU MEAN... THIS?
WHAT'S THAT SCAR .....?
HEY..... IORI.....
!!!
SLAM
!!
TWITCH
I'M SORRY SENSEI !!
I WAS PLAYING WITH THE LANDLORD'S DOG YESTERDAY, AND...
...HE GOT A LITTLE TOO EXCITED .....
STAND
..... UN-BE-LIEV-ABLE.
TRY TO BE MORE SELF-AWARE .....
R-RIGHT !!
SORRY, SENSEI .....
KEEP YOUR PROMIS-ES!
I TOLD YOU TO PRESERVE THAT BEAUTY OF YOURS AT ALL COSTS!!
DON'T GIVE ME THAT !!

PRESS
RIP
OUCH .....
THAT HURTS .....
SEN-SEI..... STOP THAT ..... TH-THAT ...
GRAB
SLAP
THAT HURTS !!
TWITCH
AH ...
I'M..... I'M SORRY, SENSEI ...
... I SEE.
EH...

GRAB
!?
YES.
THAT'S IT.
BLUB
CAN'T .....
SE—
SEN... SE—?
I FINALLY UNDERSTAND, IORI.....
SLAM
CLATTER
WHAT IT IS I WAS MISSING .....

UGH ...
GRIP
FLAIL
FLAIL
AHH .....
FOR SOMEONE TO BE AS BEAUTIFUL AS POSSIBLE, THEY NEED TO..... STRUGGLE FOR LIFE.
YES..... STRUGGLE, IORI.....
THAT IS A PERSON'S TRUE BEAUTY.
A PERSON'S LIFE SHINES BRIGHTEST WHEN THEY FIGHT AGAINST DEATH..... THAT INESCAPABLE END.....!
AND THAT'S WHY..... TRUE BEAUTY CANNOT BE EXPRESSED BY LIFE ALONE.
TWITCH
TO BEGIN WITH..... DEATH IS AN INEVITABLE PART OF LIFE.
TWITCH
HEHEH..... HEHEHEHEH.
AH .....
CAN'T BR— .....
FOR-GIVE ME...
E... NA..... SEN... SE—

CHOMP
GROWL
.....TCH.
UGH.....
SPLURT
.....LIKE I'D LET YOU...
RIGHT... BEFORE MY EYES.....

GUH .....
THAT CORPSE TURNED INTO A SHIKABANE IMMEDIATELY..... AND THEN MUTATED? I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THIS.....
WHAT EXACTLY..... -IS HAPPENING HERE?
NO..... FORGET THAT.....
DAMN..... I WAS SO INTIMIDATED I COULDN'T MOVE..... /HOW PATHETIC .....
WHAT ON EARTH .....
KYAHH.
UWAHH.
STOMP
!?
OUCH .....
SLUMP

GUH ...
CRAP ..... THIS GUY...
IN MY BLINDSPOT ...
!
OURI !!
BEHIND YOU!!
SPLURT
CRAWL
FOOM
!
EEk!
CAPE
DAMN ...
FWISH
LEAP

GROWL
!!
AHH
NO...
NO... WAY.
.....
UHH.....
CRACK
!?
THUD
CRACK
SHE'S ALIVE?
.....
EH?
SHE'S HURT, BUT...

ROAR
TATTERED
CRACK
I GET IT.....!! THIS IS THE DOG THAT HUMANOID BURNED, SO.....
GIANT OR NOT, IT'S STILL A WALKING PIECE OF CHARCOAL .....!
DASH
GROWL
WHAT THE .....?
!
SLIDE
RIP
RIP

SPLAT
WHAT.....? ITS STOMACH..... IS DEFORMED .....?
ALSO..... IT'S CLEARLY NOT REGENERATING THE WAY A SHIKABANE DOES.....!!
THAT SUDDEN CORPSE-TURNED-SHIKABANE ...
...AND THE WAY IT ADAPTED WITH THAT MUTATION .....
SHIRAE-SAN!!
.....I DON'T KNOW.
WHAT IS THAT .....?
..... BUT ...
..... RIGHT.
AT FIRST, THAT THING WAS JUST A SHIKABANE DOG, BUT .....
NOW IT'S SOME UNIDENTI-FIABLE MONSTER .....

COULD IT BE..... COULD THIS WHOLE STRANGE SPACE BE.....
THE LAND OF THE DEAD?
A WORLD WHERE ONLY SHIKABANE MULTIPLY AND THRIVE .....
...IF THAT'S THE CASE ...
HOW CAN WE POSSIBLY FIGHT BACK AGAINST THEM?
HOW CAN WE POSSIBLY... SURVIVE IN HERE?
POOM
HERE..... IN THIS HELL.....

SKITTER
!
TENSE
TENSE
SPRING
WHOOSH
TCH
.....
!
WHAP
WHAP
CLANG
WHAP
CRAP
.....
SWAY
!
GAH
!!
THUD
SLAM

SLURP
...
...
SLURP
SLURP
SLURP
.....!!
DASH
AHHHH!!
DAMMIT !!
TCH .....
..... GUH.

LOOM
WHOOSH
SLAM
GUH.
!?
SLAM
CLAMP
GAH!
SKID
SKID
!?
AGH
'WHAT THE..... I'M ALRIGHT?
BUT..... HOW.....?
!
DRIP

CRUNCH
DRIP
DRIP
CLAK
CLIK
SHIRAE.....
SAN.....?
HAA.
.....
HAA.
SHIRAE-SAN!!!

HEH-EH.
HEH-EHEH .....
LICK
ARMS AND LEGS BROKEN. ORGANS CRUSHED.
YOUR BROKEN BODY'S RESISTED ALL IT CAN.....

AND IT'S ALL *PROOF* OF THE TWINKLING LIGHT THAT IS YOUR LIFE.
HOW BEAU-TIFUL, MAKINA.
NOW, YOU'RE MY LATEST CREATION.
WELL .....
SHALL I FINISH IT.....BY SNAPPING YOUR NECK?
FOOM
TWITCH
!
REACH
REACH

!
GRAB
I'LL TREMBLE
I'LL TREMBLE
IF THIS IS YOUR FINAL ACT OF DEFIANCE... IT'S NOT VERY BEAUTIFUL.
.....
WHAT'S THIS?
BURST
IF THAT'S ALL YOU CAN MUSTER, THEN I'LL JUST MANIPULATE YOUR MUSCLES INTO SELF-DESTRUCTING ...
BURST
A CREATION SHOULD BEND TO THE WILL OF ITS CREATOR.
RIP
IT HAS NO NEED FOR ANY... THING..... EX... TRA...
!
TWINGE

.....
KAHH.
WHAT..... IS THIS? .....YOU ...
HER SHREDDED MUSCLES..... DID SHE REGENERATE THEM INSTANTLY WITH HER CURSE'S RESTORATIVE POWER.....?
GRIP
KAH.
SPURT
!!
YOU UNDERSTAND NOTHING OF LIFE'S BEAUTY .....
NOTHING... SOMEONE LIKE YOU .....
SINK
!
...YOU COULD BEAT.....A MEMBER OF THE SEVEN STARS..... WITH JUST ONE ARM?
...DID YOU..... REALLY THINK...
KUH.
SOMEONE ...
LIKE YOU ...

THUMP
HAA.
HAA.
HAA.
HAA.
HAA.
I..... SUDDENLY UNDER-STOOD ...
...THAT..... MY SPIRIT HAD ALREADY BEGUN TO AWAKEN .....

WOBBLE
WHY? BECAUSE I WAS SMILING.
SMILING AS I STRANGLED THE LIFE OUT OF IORI .....
SWIPE
MORE THAN GUILT OVER THE MURDER... MORE THAN LONELINESS OVER THE LOSS OF IORI...
ALL MY SPIRIT COULD DO WAS BE MOVED BY MY ENCOUNTER WITH TRUE BEAUTY.
AND THAT WAS BECAUSE ...
CLATTER

...IORI'S DEATH WAS ABSOLUTELY BEAUTIFUL.

DEATH LURKS WITHIN ALL LIFE.
AND..... WHEN DEATH OVERCOMES LIFE AND RISES TO THE SURFACE ...
THAT IS THE APEX OF A PERSON'S BEAUTY AND BRILLIANCE. THAT'S WHAT I SOUGHT .....

SNAP
.....I DID WHAT I HAD TO...
THAT BEAUTY..... THAT FEELING WASN'T SOMETHING I COULD JUST LEAVE BEHIND .....

I LEFT THAT VERY DAY.
BEFORE THE PLEBEIANS COULD START SQUAWKING, I WENT INTO HIDING.
富豪芸術家 失踪!?
PAPER: WEALTHY ARTIST VANISHES!? ADOLESCENT ALSO MISSING
QUICKLY.
QUICKLY! QUICKLY !!
BEFORE EVEN A BIT OF THAT MOVING MOMENT FADED FROM MEMORY...
I HAD TO PRESERVE THE PERFECTION OF THAT BEAUTY!!
QUICKER, QUICKER .....
THERE'S NOTHING MORE REGRETTABLE THAN LEAVING BEAUTY TO WITHER.....!
EVEN IF...
... IT MEANS LEAVING EVERYTHING ELSE BEHIND .....

RIP
RIP
I PUT ALL I HAD INTO THAT WORK, AND UPON MY DEATH...
...MY EYES WERE OPENED.
CRACK
SHATTER
SWIVEL
AND THEN ...
TWITCH

I'M NOT QUITE SURE, MYSELF ...
... EXACTLY WHICH OF THE TWO I AM NOW .....
THE BOY? THE MAN.....? IT DOESN'T MATTER.
ALL THAT MATTERS... IS THIS OVER-WHELMING DESIRE.

I WANT..... TO FEEL THAT SEN-SATION AGAIN.
BUT NOT BY ACCIDENT THIS TIME. I WILL PUR-POSEFULLY CREATE THAT MOMENT OF LIFE AND DEATH MYSELF .....

PAPER: NATIONWIDE OUTBREAK!! CHILD KIDNAPPINGS

WHOOSH
ゴォッ
THAT SEN-SA-TION ...
ONCE MORE.
... GAHH.

HEH-EH..... HEH-EHEH.
.....IS THAT ALL, KID?
CRACK
GAHH .....
GUH .....
I'VE BEEN WONDERING FOR SOME TIME WHY YOU'VE BEEN TAILING US .....
ALL FOR NOTHING, IT SEEMS.
HOKUTO.
IT WOULD SEEM THIS ONE IS A FAN OF YOURS.
THOUGH I DON'T RECOGNIZE HIM.
HAA.
SO .....
SO BEAU-TIFUL .....

A BEING WHO OBEYS DEATH WHILE REMAINING SO PURE AND TRUE...
ONE WHO PERFECTLY EMBODIES LIFE OVERTAKEN BY DEATH .....
I... WANT TO VIEW YOU.
THAT... BEAUTIFUL BODY..... I NEED MORE.....
HIS SAGA PRIORITIZES HIS OWN DESIRES OVER HIS LIFE.
AND HE WOULD BE A DEVOTED ADHERENT TO HOKUTO .....
HEHEH... VERY WELL.
KID.
YOU WILL BE ONE OF OUR STARS.
I'M RECRUITING ALLIES AT THE MOMENT.
SHIKABANE CRAZED ENOUGH TO FORETELL OF THIS ONE'S COMING .....
SKRITCH
SKRITCH
KID..... YOUR SAGA ...
...IS A PERFECT MATCH FOR THE SEVEN STARS.

WHAT.....THE...? IS THIS.....A DREAM?
COULD IT BE.....? AM I.....
WHY...? MY LIFE... FLASHING BEFORE MY EYES ...?
IS THIS BODY.....DYING?
SNAP

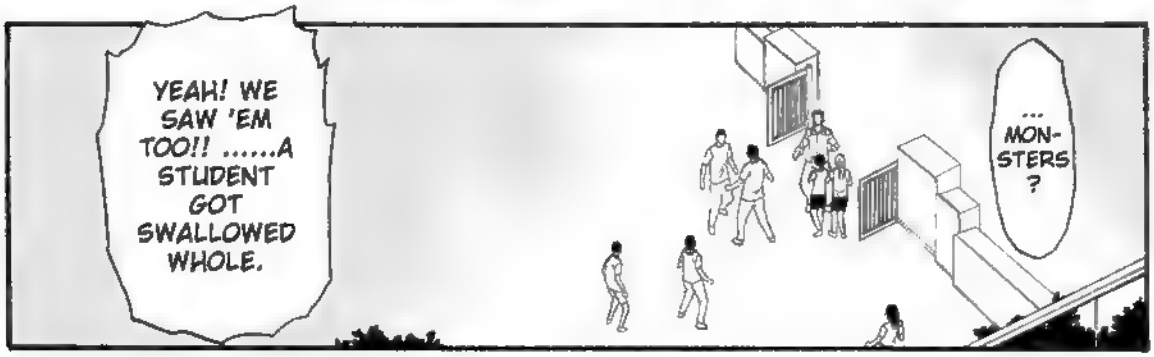
SKID
SKID
SKID
SCREE

OPEN
...OH DEAR.

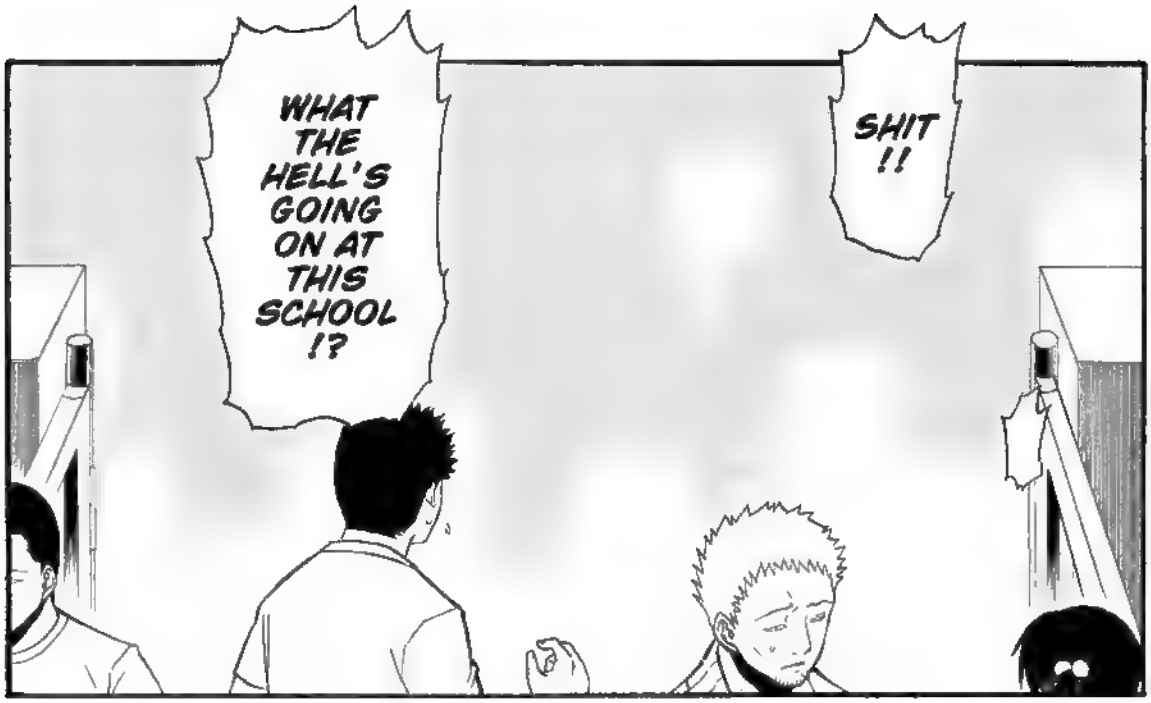
OUR SHOW HAS REACHED ITS CRESCENDO...
...BUT WE'RE ABOUT TO HAVE A RUDE INTERRUPTION.

.....NO MATTER.

SIGN: IKAI PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOL



SHIT !!
MONSTERS, SERIOUSLY? WHY MONSTERS !?
EEK !
THERE WERE STILL TWO KIDS BACK THERE WHEN WE RAN..... THEY'RE PROBABLY...
DOUBT THEY MADE IT...



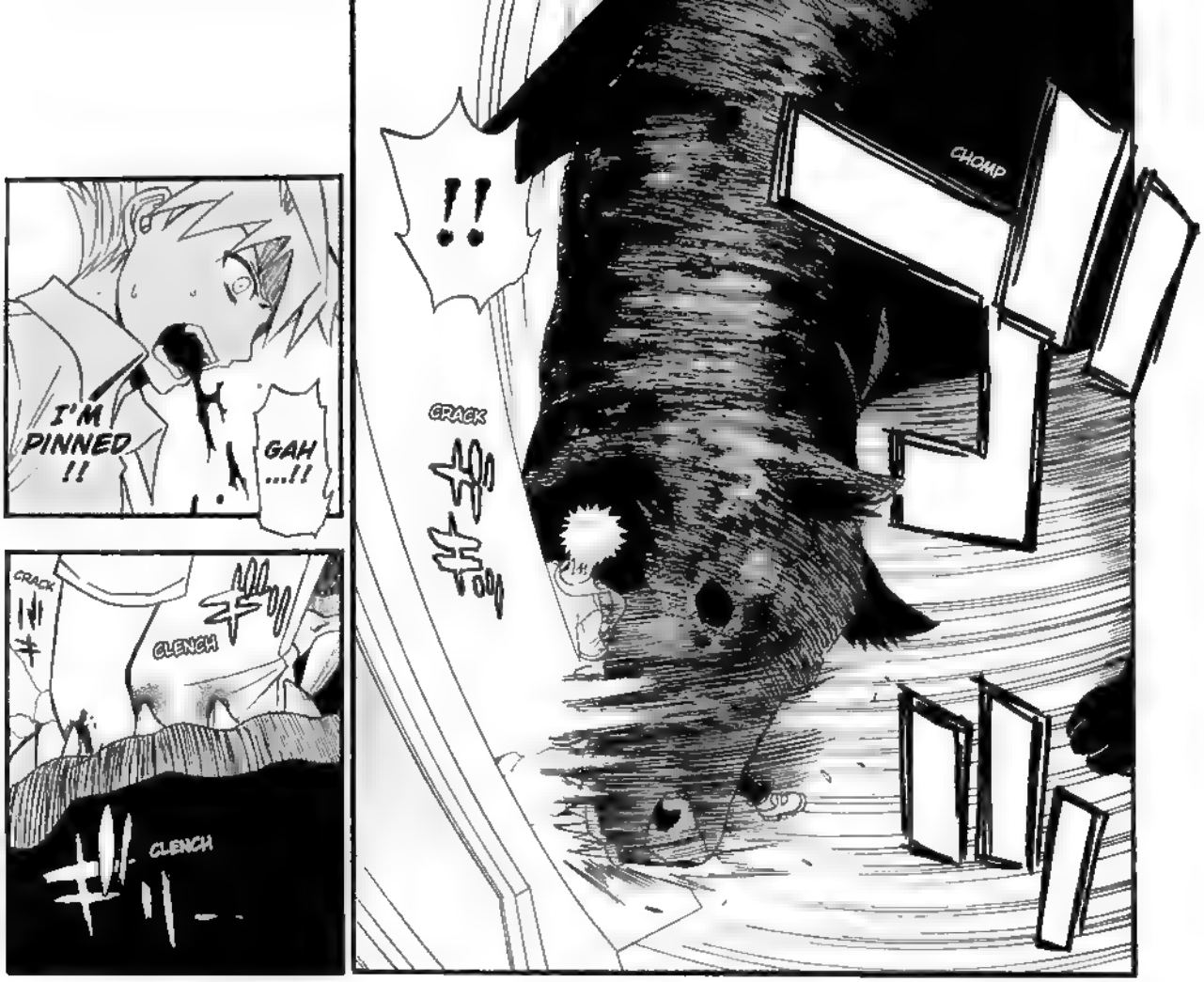
DEATH 33: ENEMY

SKID
BLARGH!!
SLIP
UHHH .....
YUP. NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I TRY, I WIND UP BACK HERE .....
SIT UP
BUT LEMME TRY AGAIN !!
THIS TIME FOR SURE!
NO..... THAT'S ENOUGH, ITSUKI.
IT APPEARS THERE'S A LOCALE HERE.
BAM
THE GATE WE SEE HERE IS NOT THE SAME AS THE ONE ON THE INSIDE..... IT'S AN ILLUSION. A MIRAGE OF SORTS.
OH, COME ON!!
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THAT SOONER !?
BEFORE I SCRAPED OFF HALF MY FACE!
GWAHH.
HA HA.
SORRY, SORRY.
BUT THANKS TO YOU, ITSUKI, I CAN MAKE A GUESS AT THE SCALE OF THIS LOCALE.
TAP
NOW TO OPEN A HOLE IN IT.
HOW MATTER HOW SECURELY IT WAS PUT TOGETHER, NO LOCALE IS ABSOLUTELY IMPENETRABLE.

.....
ENTERING A LOCALE WITHOUT BEING PREPARED IS LIKE BRAVING A FOREST WITHOUT GPS.
BUT IN THIS CASE..... WE'VE GOT A FRIEND IN THERE.
PEW
トロイハン
BOND SENSING !!
IF WE FOLLOW OURI'S BOND ...
IT WILL SHOW US THE PROPER ROUTE THROUGH THE MAZE .....!
GOT IT..... LET'S MOVE, ITSUKI.
RIGHT.
KACHAK
STRETCH
STRETCH
STRETCH
STRETCH
STRETCH
TOUCH
TOUCH
TOUCH
WEST WING 西棟
CLUB ROOMS 部室棟

SLIDE SLIDE
FUFU.
HOWEVER... HE CAN'T HOPE TO GET MUCH FARTHER SO EASILY.
HEH-EH-EH.
FU-FU.
OF COURSE THE PROTECTOR WOULD INFILTRATE WITHOUT TROUBLE.
CRACKLE
I CAN CREATE OR DESTROY PATHS ON A WHIM .....
THIS LOCALE IS AN IRON CAGE WROUGHT OF MY OWN SAGA.
INSIDE THE LOCALE.....?
WHAT.....? ANOTHER CONTAMINANT .....?

HAA.
HAA.
DRIP
...TOOK THE HIT FOR ME .....
SHIRAE-SAN, HE...
CRAP ...
GAPE
TCH!!
TCH!
SLAM


I'M PINNED !!
GAH ...!!
CRACK
CLENCH
CLENCH
!!
CRACK
CHOMP

...ANYONE .....!?
EVEN WITH ALL THAT TRAINING, I COULDN'T SAVE.....
OURI
CRACK
.....SHIT. CAN'T GET AWAY.....

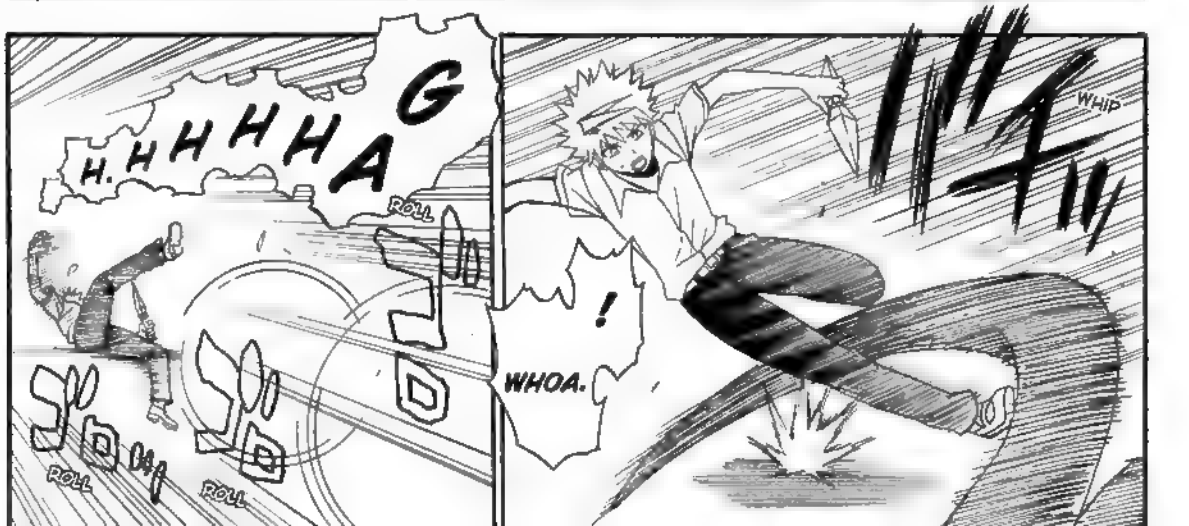
THAT VOICE..... IS IT REALLY...!?
SHI-RAE-SAN !?
OURI !!!
!
..... OURI !

OURI !!
COUGH
WE'RE STILL ALRIGHT IN HERE !!
BADUM
BADUM
HAA.
PLEASE, SEVER THE STOMACH FROM THE MAIN BODY!!
THAT SHOULD ALLOW US TO ESCAPE !!
HAA.
!!
BAM
RIP
RIP
TENSE
TENSE
PLUNGE
!!

LEAP
FLAIL
WHINE
WHOA !!
NOW I'VE JUST GOTTA CUT THAT STOMACH OFF.....!
..... SO...
SKID
SHIKABANE OR NOT, NO ONE LIKES THEIR NOSTRILS MESSED WITH.
HA-HA.
TAKE THAT .....
..... WANT... SOME HELP?
THAT STOM-ACH... WHAT DO I DO ...?
SHAKE
SHAKE
HOW THE HECK DO I DO THAT !?

GLINK
.....

WATCH YOUR FEET.
.....
YOU WERE AT..... BIG BRO'S FUNERAL .....
Y— YOU .....


H.HHHHHAG
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
!
WHOA.
WHIP

SWIPE
LEAP
UWAHH.
CRAP...!! YOU... WHY HERE? WHY NOW .....?
I MEAN, HOW'D YOU GET IN HERE ANYWAY !?
WHAP
WHAP
CLANG
WHAK
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU !?

WE OBEY..... YOUR WILL.
"OMINOUS DEATH OMEN"
.....

.....
SHALL WE HELP YOU SURVIVE THIS?
.....ALL OF US.

GASP
COUGH
SLAM
GUH.
!
SLICE
CLANG
!?
WHEN'D IT.....?
BZZT
BZZT
!
.....
!

CRAP.
TMP.
TMP.
WHAT AM I S'POSED TO DO !?
CHOMP
WAHH. !
LEAP
SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF
技術室
TECH ED. ROOM

CLATTER
CRUNCH
CLATTER
SPLASH
!
DANGLE
BOOM
!!
...
SIZZLE
SIZZLE

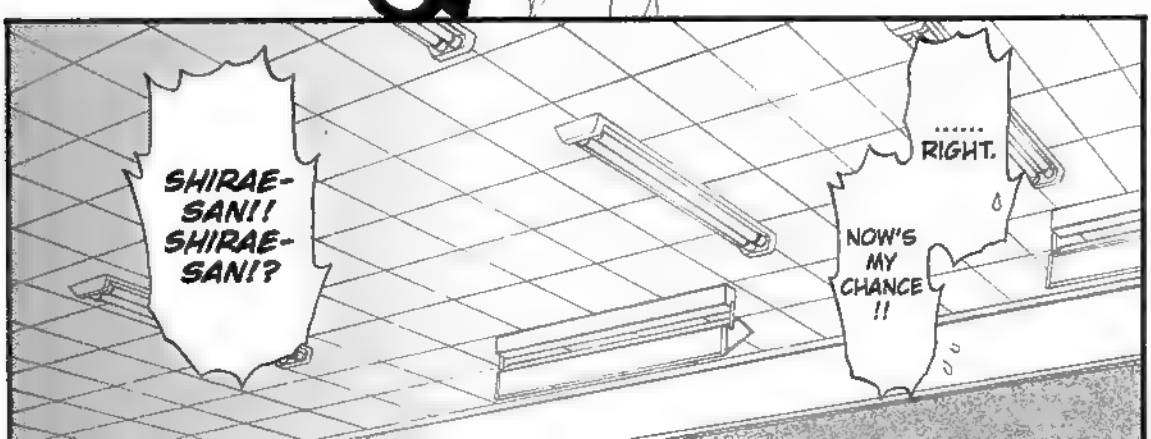
WRAP
YANK
SNAP
PULL
I DID IT!!?
PULL
TENSE
PULL
PULL
PULL
THIS CAT..... WHAT ON EARTH IS IT.....?
IT HELPED ME REALIZE THE POWER WAS STILL ON, AND IT LED ME TO THIS ROOM .....
HEHEH.
MEOW

TENSE
AS LONG AS I HOLD ONTO THE WIRE ...
...THE DOG'LL STRUG-GLE..... AND CUT ITSELF APART!!
TENSE
SLICE
SLICE
DON'T LET GO!!
GUH ...!!
SPURT
!
STOMP
LUNGE
FWIP
SLICE

SLAM
THUD

TWITCH
TWITCH
I DID IT ...?
.....
FSSHH
HAA.
HAA.

AH.

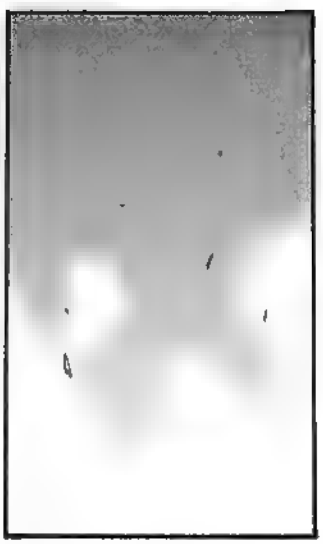

SHIRAE-SAN!! SHIRAE-SAN!?
NOW'S MY CHANCE !!
..... RIGHT.

HAA.
.....
HAA.

CRACK

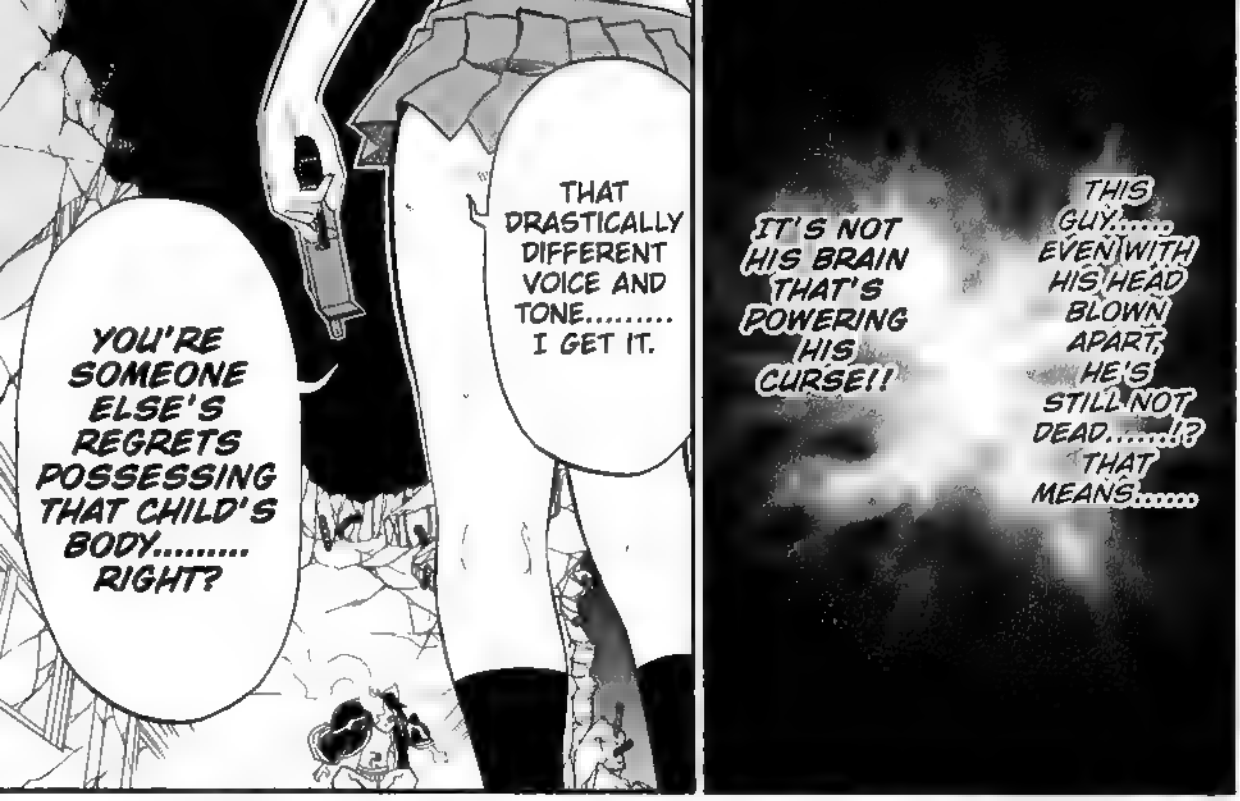
!
... LITTLE BRAT.
... FIGHTING FOR NOTHING MORE .....
... THAN A GRUDGE .....

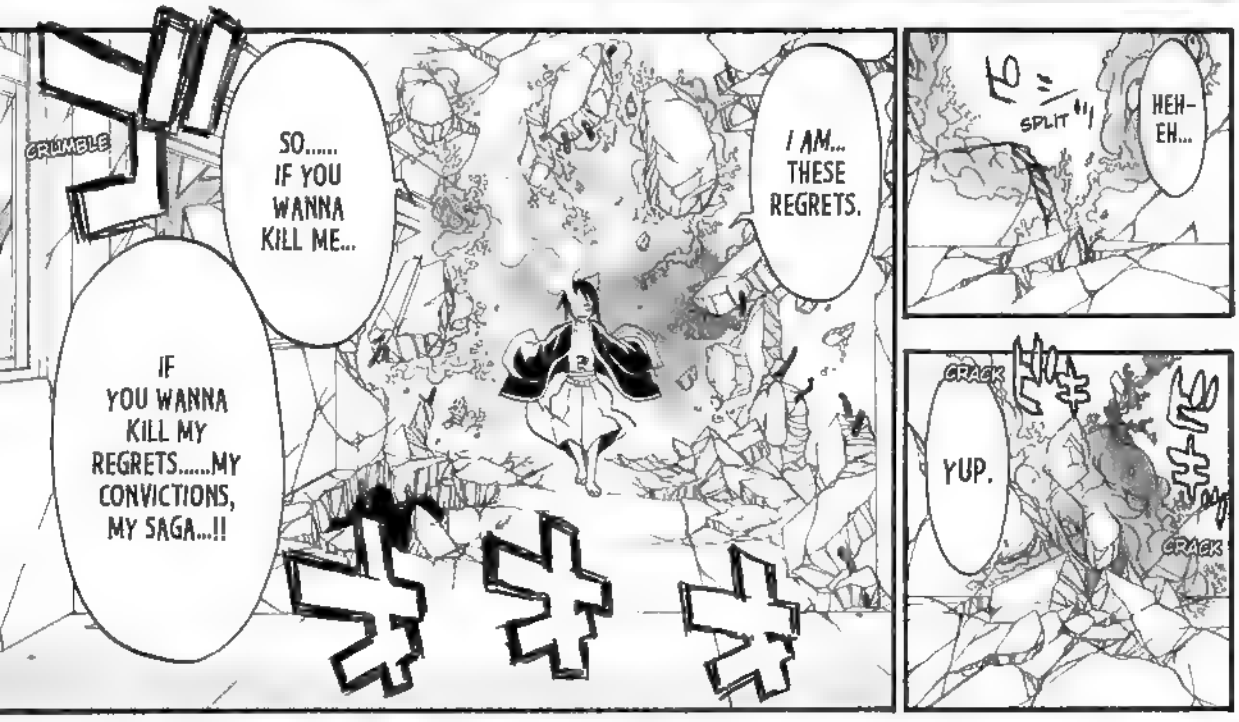
JUST ... ONE ...
TWITCH



TWINGE
I... A SHIKABANE PURE-BREED .....
AND MEMBER OF THE SEVEN STARS..... LOSING...?
TWINGE
Cal
COULDN'T ..... EVEN TURN SHIKA-BANE.
SUCH PATHETIC REGRETS..... SAGA LIKE THE DREGS OF YOUR MIND.....
DON'T ...
... MAKE ME LAUGH!!
FWIP
!
HIS VOICE .....
!?

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
WHOOSH
BOOM
HAA.
HAA.
GYAHHH.
GAHAH.
GAH
...
THUD
!? WHAT. THE!?
YOU..... WENT AND DID IT NOW.
CROUCH
.....
YOU..... BITCH
...
PULSE


YOU'RE SOMEONE ELSE'S REGRETS POSSESSING THAT CHILD'S BODY..... RIGHT?
THAT DRASTICALLY DIFFERENT VOICE AND TONE..... I GET IT.
IT'S NOT HIS BRAIN THAT'S POWERING HIS CURSE!!
THIS GUY..... EVEN WITH HIS HEAD BLOWN APART, HE'S STILL NOT DEAD.....!? THAT MEANS.....


CRUMBLE
SO..... IF YOU WANNA KILL ME...
IF YOU WANNA KILL MY REGRETS.....MY CONVICTIONS, MY SAGA...!!
I AM... THESE REGRETS.
SPLIT
HEH-EH...
CRACK
YUP.
CRACK

SQUIRM
... OBLITERATE THIS ENTIRE BODY!!
SNAP
THEN YOU'VE GOTTA...

IF IT'S REALLY MY FATE TO BE KILLED BY YOU...
...THEN I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO RESIST!!
STEP
STEP
STEP

KACHAK

COME AT ME..... MAKINA HOSHI-MURA.
LICK
BECAUSE JUST NOW..... I ARRIVED AT MY "TRUTH" .....

I'LL DEFY FATE AND KILL YOU INSTEAD.
AND..... ONCE MY LIFE ACHIEVES THAT PERFECT, SHINING MOMENT OF BEAUTY ...

!!
FWIP

ZOOM

BLAM
BLAM
BOOM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
GUH .....!
BLAM
HA-HA !!
WHAT NOW !?
THAT ALL YOU GOT !?
I THOUGHT ...
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
SKID
...YOU LIVED ONLY TO KILL THE SEVEN STARS!?
OOZE
!

SHOOM
SHOOM
BAM
IT CAME IN RESPONSE TO MY GHOST MANIPULATION !!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
HER CURSE !!
...ALSO GOT IT?
SHE'S...
GUSH
GRAZE

BOOM
THIS BRAT, TOO...
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
REGRETS... SAGA ENHANCED BY THE LAND OF THE DEAD'S UNHOLY PROTECTION. JUST LIKE MINE.
BOOM
.....
HEH.
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
HA HA HA HA.
AHA.
AH.
HA ...
HA HA HA HA HA.
SLICE
SLAM

BOOM

WHOOSH

UWAH-HHHH!!!!

OHHH...

WHOOSH

BOOM
UWAH-HHHH!!!!
OHHH...

GASP
COUGH COUGH
.....
WE'RE GOOD. HE'S NOT MOVING.
...I DON'T THINK.
YOU OKAY, SHIRAE-SAN .....?
ALL THAT BLOOD...
.....
YES.
WHAT OF THE ENEMY?
...SO WE'D BETTER ...
TWITCH
STEP
LOOM
LOOM
LOOM

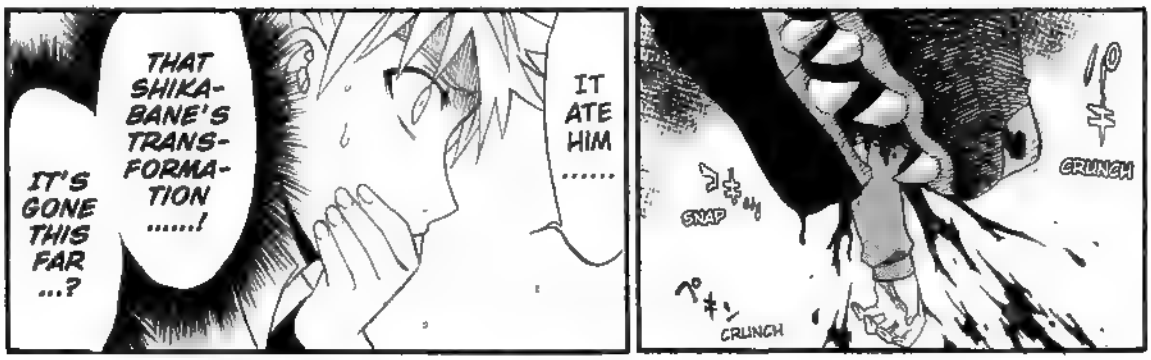
CROUCH
?
LEAD
STAB
FWIP
WHAT .....!?
!!
WH—
IT VAN-ISHED?
.....
TCH.
POOF

.....THAT WAS THE CONTAMINANT I DETECTED EARLIER.
BUT..... NOW THAT UNKNOWN PLAYER HAS BEEN REMOVED.
LOOM

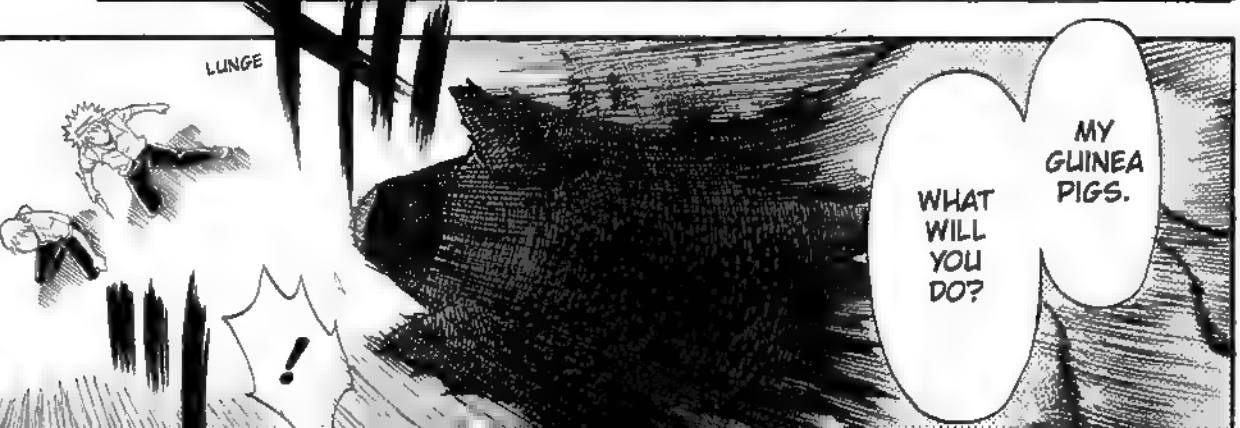
I AM ISAKA OF THE SEVEN STARS.
YES..... GREETINGS, MY GUINEA PIGS.
THAT SYMBOL!!
YOU'RE... ONE OF THE SEVEN STARS !?

I WON'T DO ANYTHING, IN FACT..... ONLY...
STRIP
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
MAKE NO MISTAKE, THOUGH, I'M NOT HERE TO FIGHT.
I AM MERELY AN OBSERVER.
SLINK

CREEP
...WATCH OVER THE LAND OF THE DEAD EXPERIMENT...
...TO THE BITTER END.


IT ATE HIM.....
THAT SHIKABANE'S TRANSFORMATION.....!
IT'S GONE THIS FAR...?
CRUNCH
SNAP
CRUNCH

WONDERFUL...!
ORIGINALLY A DIMINUTIVE EXISTENCE, THIS SPECIMEN IS A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF THE MIRACLES POSSIBLE IN THIS LOCALE, PROVIDED ONE HAS REGRETS.
.....NOW THEN...


LUNGE
!
WHAT WILL YOU DO?
MY GUINEA PIGS.

WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
NOTHING LEFT TO DO...
...BUT DESTROY IT.
!!
BAM
WHOOSH
BAM
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
SEALED MANDALA RELEASE ...
HUHHH
SIX REALMS EXOR-CISM.

!!
THUNK
THUNK
THUNK
THUNK
BULGE
BULGE
BURST
GY—
GYAH-HHHH.
WHOOSH
SPRAY
SCRAPE
SKID
SKID
SKID
!
LEAP

FWIP
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BOOM
...
WHINE
THUD

SORRY, SEVEN-STAR GUY.
HAA.
HAA.
BUT WHEN MY FRIENDS ARE IN DANGER, I RISE TO THE OCCASION.
I WAS SO DISTRACTED BY THAT OTHER CONTAMINANT THAT I DIDN'T NOTICE YOU RACING THROUGH MY LOCALE.
.....
WHAT A SURPRISE, PROTECTOR-DONO.
SO I MIGHT AS WELL DEAL WITH YOU MYSELF AND BE DONE WITH IT.....
GRIN
FROM THE START, YOU'VE BEEN UNNECESSARY IMPURITIES ON THIS STAGE OF MINE.
OH, THAT'S FINE.
SPLIT
AND I SIMPLY CANNOT ALLOW THESE CONSTANT INTERRUP-TIONS.
THIS PERFOR-MANCE IS A TRIBUTE TO THE SEVEN STARS' SAGA.
CRACK
CRACK

BAM
CRACK
!!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
TURN
OURII SHIRAE !
THIS WAY !!
WHA—
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
IT'S COL-LAPSING .....!?
ENA .....
.....
RUMBLE

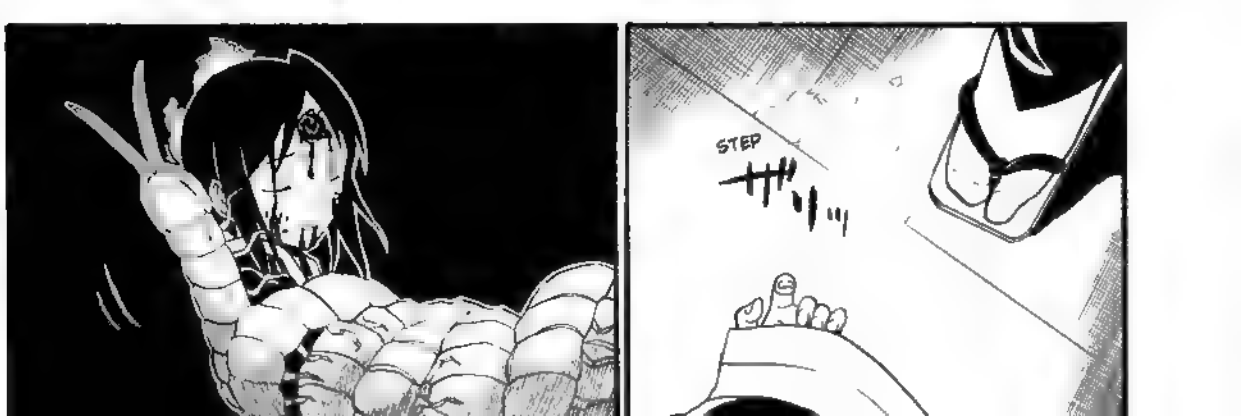
CLATTER
GAH... SHIT .....
WHAT... THE HELL .....

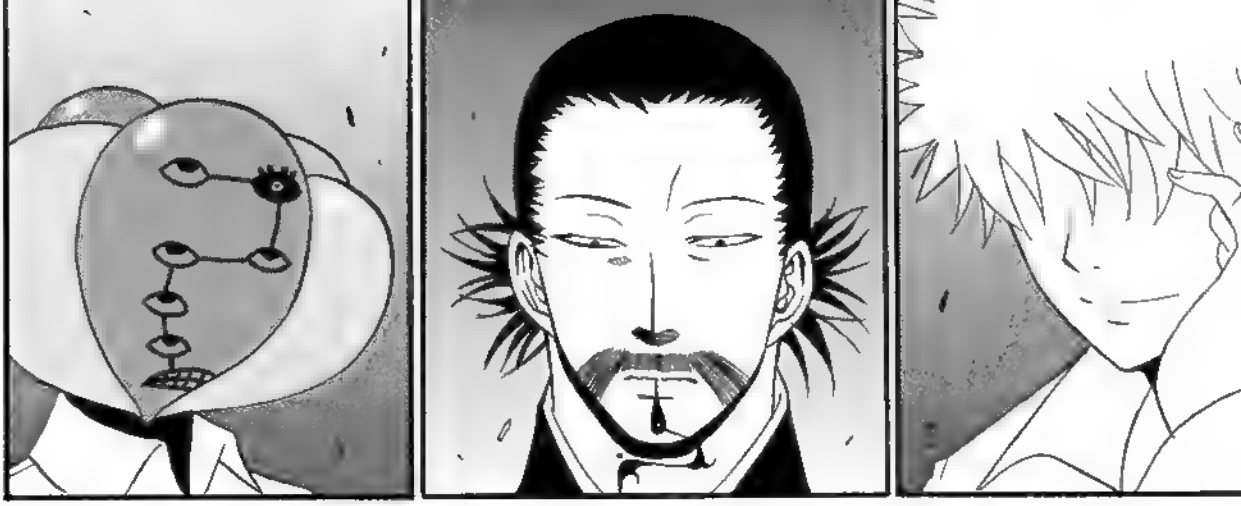
.....
WHAT...ARE YOU, MAKINA HOSHIMURA?
YOU SURPASSED MERE "REGRET" AND UPENDED MY OWN DESTINY..... WHAT IS IT .....
... THAT YOU POSSESS?
HEH..... HEHEHAHA .....
COUGH
HOW VEXING .....
MY LIFE'S WORK.... CUT SHORT..... BY SOMEONE ...LIKE YOU.
NOTH-ING.
NOTH-ING..... AT ALL.
ASIDE FROM MY DESIRE..... TO KILL YOU ALL.....
BUT BEYOND THAT? NOTHING.
OOZE
YOU BRAT ...
HEHEH.
...

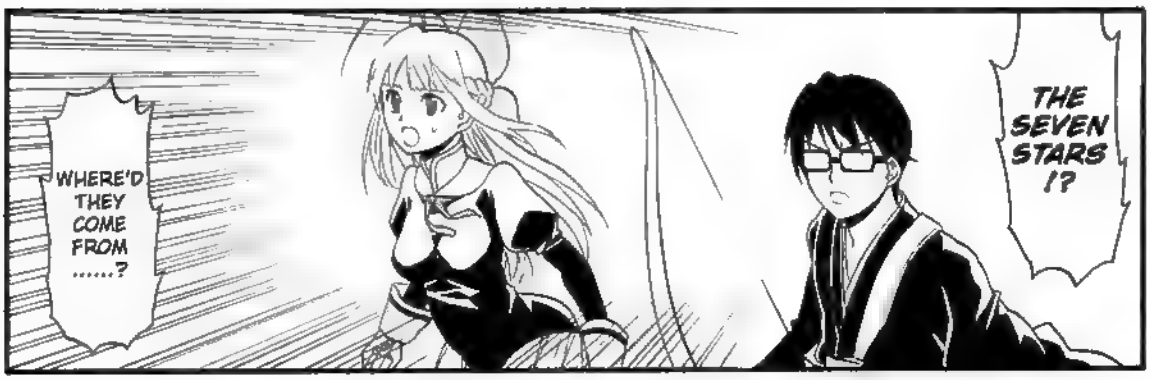
BURST
THAT.....
IS YOUR
SAGA.....
MAKINA...
THAT...
DESIRE.....THAT
UNREWARDING
LIFE...
BURST
...HOSHI...
MU...RA.
BURST
OOZE
OOZE
GO
ON
...
STRUG-
GLE...
BURST
BOOM
RUMBLE
WHOOSH
.....
HOSHI-
MURA-
SAN.
.....

DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
EH?
DRIP

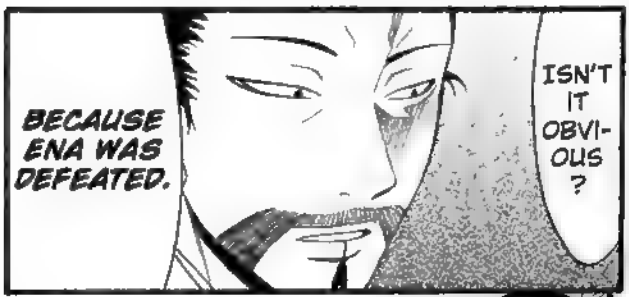
THUD
ALL THAT BATTLE DAMAGE...!! IT LOOKS SERIOUS!!
DASH
!! HOSHI-MURA-SA—
BURST
!?
SHOVE
OURI !!


STEP




THE SEVEN STARS!?
WHERE'D THEY COME FROM.....?

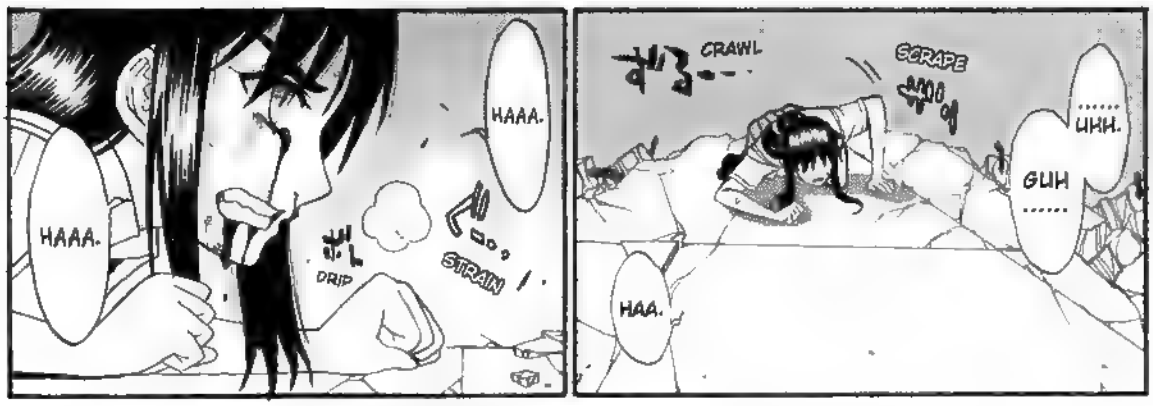
YOU USED THE DOOR IN THE LOCALE THAT I CREATED EXCLUSIVELY FOR MYSELF?
.....WHY?


ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?
BECAUSE ENA WAS DEFEATED.

BY..... THIS GIRL.

.....OF COURSE.
BUT THIS EXPERIMENT IS...
GYA-HA-HA.
MORON !!
SO MUCH..... BLOOD.....
HOSHIMURA-SAN.....
.....
YOU GOING SENILE, GRAMPS !?
GYAHA.
THIS AIN'T LIKE THAT TIME WITH IZUWA !!
ONE OF OUR OWN PUT HIS SAGA ON THE LINE AND GOT DONE IN...
DON'T YOU GET HOW FREAKING SERIOUS THAT IS?
UFU-FU! ♪
DON'T GET COCKY JUST 'COS YOU'RE CARRYING HOKUTO!!
FAT CHANCE, TOUYA, YOU DUMBASS BALLOON !!
KEEP THAT UP AND PEOPLE WILL CALL YOU JUNIOR WEENIE-KUN.
TRUE..... BUT YOU MUSTN'T DRAW SUCH QUICK AND CHILDISH CONCLUSIONS, HIZUCHI-SAN.

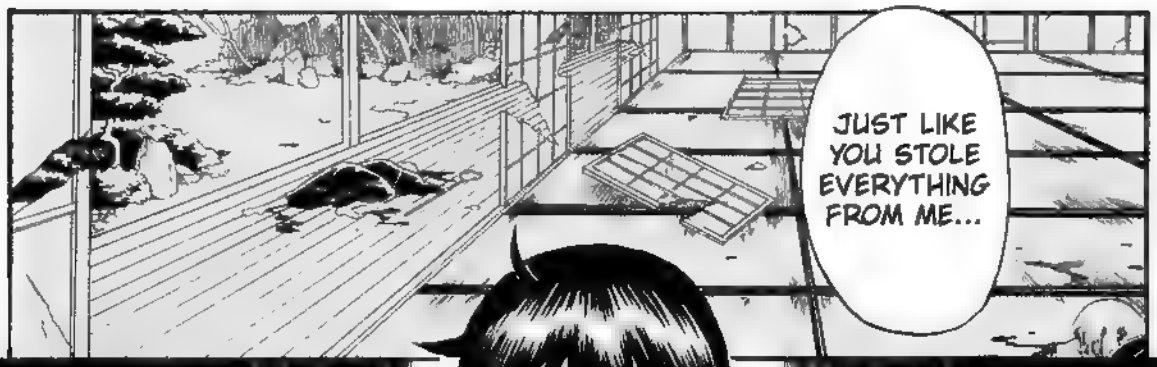
...


HAAA.
HAAA.
DRIP
STRAIN
CRAWL
SCRAPE
.....UHH.
GUH .....
HAA.

I AC-KNOWL-EDGE YOUR EF-FORTS.
MAKINA HOSHI-MURA.
STEP
.....HEHEH.

YOU KILLED IZUWA..... YOU KILLED ENA..... WITHOUT A DOUBT, THAT MAKES YOU...
...THE SEVEN STARS' ENEMY.
Flow
OUR BELOVED, HATEFUL ...
... ENEMY.

HOSHI-MURA-SAN .....
.....
STRAIGHTEN UP!!
DRIP
DRIP
AA!! SPLATTER
STAND UP!!
SLAM
...I CAN'T BE CRAWLING AROUND IN THE DIRT !!
STAND
NOW, MORE THAN EVER.....
MAKINA HOSHI-MURA'S YOUR ENEMY.
THAT'S RIGHT, SEVEN STARS.
YEAH .....



Corpse Princess 7 End

BONUS: "A DAY WITH THE SEVEN STARS"
OHH !!
LONG TIME NO SEE, GUYS!!
SLAM
WAHAHAHAHA.
I HEARD THAT THIS HERE VOLUME 7 IS A CELEBRATION OF THE SEVEN STARS!!
SO CONGRATS, YEAH!!
WHO'S THAT?
WHO IS THIS AGAIN?
WHO SAID YOU COULD BUST IN HERE LIKE THIS?
AIN'T YOU DEAD? HMM?
EH!?
WHAT? I'M PART OF THE SEVEN STARS TOO!!
I'M EV-ERYONE'S BELOVED IZUWA!!
SWAGGER
KILL
PRETENDING I NEVER EVEN EXISTED...!!
THESE GUYS...
GRR ...
SPLAT
WAIT RIGHT HERE!! I'LL BE BACK WITH A COPY OF VOLUME 2, WHERE I'M THE STAR!!
WHAP
D-DAMMIT.

TAKING SHELTER
AH.

KAPOW
JUST ANOTHER DAY FOR THE SEVEN STARS ...
GYAHHHH.
SWISH
DIE!
SOLT
WHOOSH

CORPSE PRINCESS
PRODUCTION HELPERS:
KATOU-SAN
OOSUMI-SAN
YAMAUCHI-SAN
YOSHIOKA-SAN
TSUJI-SAN

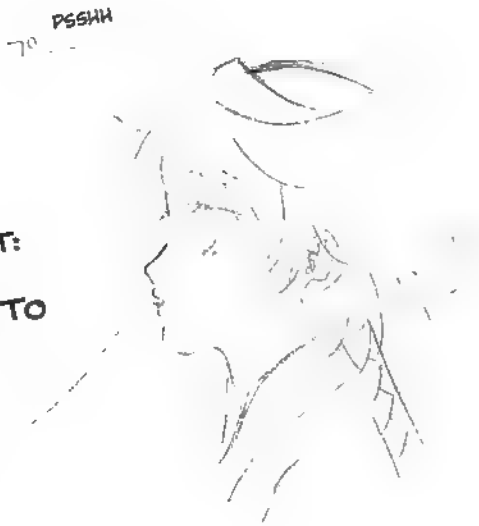
EMERGENCY HELPERS:
USAMI-SAN
NIJOU-DON
YADA-KUN

SUPERVISOR:
SHIMIZU

AND THANKS TO ALL THE READERS OUT THERE!

AND THE ARTIST:

YOSHIICHI AKAHITO



"I'LL TAKE EVERYTHING. UNTIL.....THERE'S NOTHING LEFT OF YOU!!" SO SAYS MAKINA HOSHIMURA. SUCH IS HER GRIM DETERMINATION IN THE FACE OF THE SEVEN STARS, FOR THEY ARE NOW BOUND TO EACH OTHER AS "ENEMIES." SO SHE STRUGGLES TO STAND AGAINST THEM. THAT'S ALL SHE KNOWS HOW TO DO, EVEN IF THE DESPAIR-FILLED LAND OF THE DEAD LIES AHEAD.

SHIKABANE KILLS NEEDED FOR CORPSE PRINCESS MAKINA HOSHIMURA TO ASCEND TO HEAVEN: 92

8 volume

COMING SOON

CORPSE PRINCESS

AKAHITO YOSHIICHI

SEVEN STARS: HAZAMA
(REAL NAME UNKNOWN)
HEIGHT: 182 CM WEIGHT: 80 KG
BLOOD TYPE: UNKNOWN
BIRTHDAY: ABOUT 400 YEARS AGO
FAVORITE THINGS: HUMAN BLOODLUST AND MALICE
LEAST FAVORITE THINGS: SAINTS (INCLUDING SELF-STYLED ONES)
SPECIAL ABILITIES: MIND-READING (PSYCHOLOGY)
SEVEN STARS: HOKUTO
(REAL NAME: [redacted])
HEIGHT: 154 CM
WEIGHT: 44 KG
BLOOD TYPE: AB
BIRTHDAY: ABOUT 80 YEARS AGO
FAVORITE THINGS: PEOPLE, FESTIVALS, APPLES
LEAST FAVORITE THINGS: ISOLATION
SPECIAL ABILITIES: REMAINING PERFECTLY STILL (SHE ONCE DIDN'T MOVE FOR A WHOLE WEEK)

CORPSE PRINCESS 7

Yoshiichi Akahito

Translation: Caleb D. Cook
Lettering: Bianca Pistillo

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